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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material; and trafficking in persons, especially women and children

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/177 and Human Rights Council resolutions 34/16 and 35/5.

* A/72/150.



Joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/177 and Human Rights Council resolutions 34/16 and 35/5. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material have described herein their activities undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates since their previous reports to the Assembly (A/71/303 and A/71/261, respectively).

They also provide a study on the vulnerabilities of children to sale, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis. Their recommendations, at the end of the report, are aimed at reducing the vulnerabilities of those children and enhancing their protection.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/177 and Human Rights Council resolutions 35/5 and 34/16. It outlines the activities undertaken from August 2016 to August 2017 by the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The focus of the report is the vulnerability of children to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation in the context of conflict and humanitarian crisis.

II. Activities carried out by the Special Rapporteurs

A. Participation in conferences and consultations¹

2. From 1 to 3 February 2017, both Special Rapporteurs participated in a strategic workshop held in Wilton Park (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) to begin operationalizing Alliance 8.7, a global partnership launched in New York on 21 September 2016 to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, in compliance with target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1).

Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material

3. On 20 February 2017, the Special Rapporteur participated in an event on policy initiatives to tackle the exploitation, trafficking and modern slavery of refugee and displaced children, organized by the United Kingdom branch of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Wilton Park.

4. In her annual report to the Human Rights Council for its thirty-fourth session (A/HRC/34/55), she focused on illegal adoptions. On 8 March, she organized an event on illegal adoptions and the rights of victims to truth, accountability, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.

5. On 12 June, she was a panellist at the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2017, at the event entitled "WePROTECT Global Alliance: multi-stakeholder action to stop online child sexual exploitation".

6. On 13 July, she participated in a meeting of the World Tourism Organization, in Madrid, on the implementation of recommendations made by ECPAT International in its global study on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

7. On 20 March 2017, the Special Rapporteur delivered a speech at a conference on how to tackle trafficking in human beings in the field of asylum — the practices of Switzerland under scrutiny, held in Bern.

8. On 9 June, at the thirty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council, she presented her thematic report on the efforts of multi-stakeholder initiatives and

¹ For activities of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children between August 2016 and December 2016, see A/HRC/34/55. For activities of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children between 1 August 2016 to 28 February 2017, see A/HRC/35/37.

industry coalitions to address, through voluntary standards, human trafficking in supply chains (A/HRC/35/37).

9. On 15 June, she was a panellist at the Foreign Trade Association's annual conference in a session on managing migration and exploitation in the supply chain.

10. On July 10, she was a panellist at an event on the identification and referral of trafficked persons from among international protection seekers, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Italian Ministry of Interior, in Rome.

B. Country visits

11. The Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children visited the Dominican Republic from 8 to 15 May 2017, at the invitation of the Government of that country.² She thanks the Government of the Dominican Republic for its cooperation before and during the visit. The report of the mission will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its session in March 2018.

12. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children visited Cuba from 10 to 14 April 2017, at the invitation of the Government of that country.³ She thanks the Government of Cuba for its cooperation before and during the visit. The report of the visit will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its session in June 2018.

III. Vulnerabilities of children to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis

A. Introduction

13. The present joint study by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children and the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children addresses the vulnerabilities of children to sale, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis.

14. The forms of exploitation covered include the sexual exploitation of children, child and forced marriage, the labour exploitation of children and child labour, including in its worst forms, such as the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. The children who are considered in the context of the present report are those who are said to be "on the move", and may be unaccompanied or separated from their families. This includes refugee children, internally displaced children and child migrants below 18 years of age. The report is based on a literature review of available material on this topic.

15. The rationale of the joint report stems from the fact that addressing emerging forms of vulnerabilities of children has been identified as a priority area by both mandate holders during their respective tenures. The joint report also reflects the commitment of the Special Rapporteurs to ensuring complementarity among those special procedures mandate holders who address cross-cutting issues of concern and to mainstreaming the protection of children's rights within the special procedures system.

² See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21632&LangID=E.

³ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21518&LangID=E.

16. The sale of and trafficking in children, although similar, are two distinct but linked human rights violations, and States are legally bound to take measures to prevent both (article 35 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child).⁴ States tend to confuse the sale of children with child trafficking. Indeed, most national legislations and available data refer to the crime of trafficking, while the crime of sale is overlooked. Consequently, most of the data and documents that were analysed for the purpose of the present study focus on trafficking, as specific information on the crime of sale of children continues to be scarce.

B. Vulnerabilities of children to exploitation in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis

1. Overview

17. Whether induced by armed conflict, natural disasters or protracted humanitarian situations, crises are accompanied by a breakdown in public institutions, violations of human rights, the erosion of essential services, inequalities and impoverishment. Existing vulnerabilities to sale, trafficking and exploitation, from gender-based violence to discrimination and to lack of economic opportunities, are exacerbated during such crises. Furthermore, crises tend to fuel impunity, the breakdown of law and order and the destruction of communities, and foster the conditions in which trafficking and other forms of exploitation flourish, often past the point at which hostilities or the humanitarian crises cease.⁵ Other aggravating factors are related to discrimination, whether gender-based, ethnic, racial, religious, social, within a community or at the national level.

18. The increase in conflict and humanitarian crises has led to a record level of displacement, with 24.2 million new displacements worldwide in 2016, mostly caused by weather-related disasters.⁶ Children are disproportionately affected by conflict and humanitarian crises. According to the Secretary-General, children suffered from human rights violations in situation of conflict in 14 countries in 2015, namely in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.⁷ By the end of 2015, 28 million children had been forcibly displaced by violence and conflict, of whom 17 million had been internally displaced, 1 million were asylum-seekers and 10 million were refugees.⁸ Children are overrepresented in the number of refugees worldwide, accounting for 51 per cent of the 22.5 million refugees in 2016, while they only represent a third of the world's population.⁹

19. At the regional and national levels, children on the move are also vulnerable to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation. There are also reports of missing

⁴ The sale of children is defined in article 2 (a) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Trafficking in persons is defined in article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁵ A/HRC/32/41, paras. 13-14; International Organization for Migration (IOM), "Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis: evidence and recommendations for further action to protect vulnerable and mobile populations" (Geneva, 2015).

⁶ See www.internal-displacement.org/database.

⁷ See A/70/836; S/2016/360.

⁸ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), *Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children* (New York, 2016), p. 18.

⁹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "Global trends: forced displacement in 2016" (Geneva, 2017), p. 2.

children, some of whom fall into the hands of criminals to continue their journey to reach relatives or acquaintances in another country.¹⁰ In Africa, nearly 3 million children were refugees by the end of 2015.¹¹ As of mid-2016, 390,000 Nigerian children had been displaced to the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger, and a further 1.1 million children had been internally displaced owing to the conflict in the Lake Chad basin.¹² Children have been subjected to abhorrent abuses, mainly at the hands of Boko Haram, which has reportedly recruited and used more than 8,000 children since 2009, abducted at least 4,000 girls, boys and young women, and inflicted sexual violence on more than 7,000 girls and women, often leading to pregnancies.¹³ Since the beginning of the conflict in South Sudan, in 2013, children have constituted 66 per cent of the 1.3 million refugees,¹⁴ and the majority of the 1.9 million internally displaced persons.¹⁵ A direct consequence of the war has been the recruitment and use of more than 17,000 children, with a further 3,090 children abducted and 1,130 children sexually assaulted by armed forces and armed groups, among others.¹⁶

20. In Asia, children constituted 48 per cent of the 14.8 million refugees by the end of 2015.¹⁷ The ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, which had created 2.4 million child refugees in 2015¹⁸ and more than 2 million internally displaced children by 2016,¹⁹ has led to situations of extreme vulnerability. Indeed, United Nations assessments have revealed cases of child recruitment in 90 per cent of the locations surveyed in that country and cases of child marriage in 85 per cent of them.²⁰ Similarly, the decades-long conflict in Afghanistan has created 1.3 million child refugees²¹ and, by 2016, had displaced more than half a million persons, 56 per cent of whom were children.²² Those children are at a particularly high risk of being abused and exploited, with a very elevated level of child or forced marriage and domestic abuse.²³ Likewise, the reported rise in the number of child brides among Rohingya children who have fled Myanmar and live in neighbouring countries perpetuates the cycle of violence and poverty experienced by those girls.²⁴

21. As one of the main destinations for children on the move who are fleeing violence, conflict and humanitarian crisis, Europe is at the heart of the sale of, trafficking in and other forms of exploitation of children. In Europe, child trafficking has increased sharply owing to the migration crisis.²⁵ High rates of trafficking in and exploitation of children have been documented on the central

¹⁰ See <http://missingchildreneurope.eu/news/Post/1023/Europol-confirms-the-disappearance-of-10-000-migrant-children-in-Europe>.

¹¹ UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 8.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 58.

¹³ See S/2017/304; A/HRC/32/32/Add.2.

¹⁴ UNHCR, "Global trends", pp. 30-33.

¹⁵ Kimberly Bennett and others, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2017*, Jeremy Lennard, ed. (Geneva, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2017), p. 13.

¹⁶ See www.unicef.org/media/media_94185.html.

¹⁷ UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 78.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

¹⁹ See http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/hno_2017_summary_0.pdf.

²⁰ Alum McDonald and others, "Invisible wounds: the impact of six years of war on the mental health of Syria's children" (Save the Children, 2017), p. 9.

²¹ UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 29.

²² See http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/afg_2017_hno_english.pdf.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21754&LangID=E.

²⁵ European Commission, "Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings, 2016, p. 7.

Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy.²⁶ While in transit from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe, young Somalis become victims of frequent and serious violence at the hands of traffickers, criminal gangs and Libyan groups.²⁷ Those children are frequently detained in Libyan jails until a ransom of about \$2,000 is paid.²⁸

22. In Central and North America, 100,000 unaccompanied or separated children were identified at the border between Mexico and the United States of America, comprising one third of such children who were registered worldwide in 2015 and 2016.²⁹ More than half of those children have been fleeing situations of extreme violence, generally related to organized crime, in countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and El Salvador.³⁰ Those who undertake this perilous journey are exposed to xenophobia, discrimination, abuse, violence and exploitation, and many end up detained at the border, where they risk further ill-treatment, abuse and exploitation.³¹ Up to 38 per cent of the children coming from Mexico and apprehended in the United States had been recruited into the smuggling industry, indicating a high proportion of exploitation at the border.³²

23. In the absence of safe and regular migration channels, as well as permanent and accessible mechanisms for children and their families to access long-term regular migration status or residence permits, children are forced to search for precarious alternatives that increase their exposure to risks of sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

2. Specific vulnerabilities

24. Conflict and humanitarian crises result in children risking being exposed to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation, whether in their homes, communities or society, or in places where migrants or refugees reside, including reception centres, refugee camps or informal settlements in source, transit and destination countries, some of which are discussed below.

(a) Vulnerability of children to exploitation in source countries

25. In many conflict-affected countries, girls become victims of sexual exploitation, including forced marriage, sexual slavery, prostitution and forced pregnancy.³³ The egregious pattern of girls abducted from their homes or schools in conflict-affected settings by extremist groups has also emerged. In Iraq, for example, girls from ethnic and religious minority groups such as the Yazidis continue to be subjected to sexual violence by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). There are also reports of trafficking in and sale of children by ISIL.³⁴ In Somalia, there is a pattern of forced marriage of girls to militants from groups such as Al-Shabaab and Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a and soldiers of the National Army.³⁵

26. In addition to being a means for advancing their criminal endeavours, the sexual exploitation of children is further used by violent extremist groups to

²⁶ UNICEF, *A Child is a Child: Protecting Children on the Move From Violence, Abuse and Exploitation* (New York, 2017), p. 15.

²⁷ Viviana Coppola and Eva Lo Iacono, eds., "Young invisible enslaved: The child victims at the heart of trafficking and exploitation in Italy" (Save the Children, 2016), pp. 23-24.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ UNICEF, *A Child is a Child*, p. 11.

³⁰ UNHCR, "Children on the run: unaccompanied children leaving Central America and Mexico and the need for international protection", 2014, pp. 6-7.

³¹ See joint allegation letter, case No. USA 10/2014.

³² UNHCR, "Children on the run", p. 11.

³³ S/2017/249, paras. 16, 54 and 55; A/71/303, para. 33.

³⁴ A/71/303, para. 29.

³⁵ See A/71/303.

generate revenue, as part of the shadow economy of conflict and terrorism, through trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, sexual slavery and the extortion of ransoms from desperate families. In some circumstances, girls are themselves treated as the "wages of war", being gifted as a form of in-kind compensation or payment to fighters, who are then entitled to resell or exploit them as they wish.³⁶ Such strategies are also believed to be a way of recruiting, rewarding and retaining fighters.

27. In humanitarian crises, the pre-existing vulnerabilities of girls that are rooted in discriminatory traditions and customs persist and lead to negative coping mechanisms. Children seeking to survive are often compelled to exchange sexual services, and girls are even forced to marry for food, shelter, protection or safe passage.³⁷ According to the Secretary-General, approximately 90 per cent of women and girls affected by conflict in north-east Nigeria do not have access to basic services.³⁸ As a result, they are forced to exchange sex for food and other essential supplies, and the child or forced marriages of girls to older men are on the rise, as a supposed protection mechanism and source of income for desperate families.

28. In addition, despite their role in supporting the maintenance of peace and security and providing humanitarian assistance, the deployment of peacekeeping forces and international humanitarian personnel, generally in the context of conflict and humanitarian crises, has also proven to be a risk factor for children. In 2016, 138 cases of children allegedly victims of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by such forces and personnel had been reported by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.³⁹

29. Chaos in the aftermath of a natural disaster can also exacerbate the vulnerability to exploitation of the affected communities by making children more prone to accepting, for example, bogus offers of employment or education from traffickers or criminal networks. In order to support the family's dire economic situation or meet their own needs, children are sold or trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation. They may be entrusted by family members to people who promise to find them work either within or outside the country, or they may directly offer their services to employers and middle persons. Once in the hands of traffickers who prey on their eagerness to work and send money to the family, those children are forced into the worst forms of child labour.⁴⁰

30. In addition, children, especially those who are unaccompanied or live in conflict and humanitarian crisis areas, may be sold or trafficked to serve as combatants in armed conflict. Children are also used as human bombs and human shields. For example, in Iraq, ISIL and other extremist groups traffic boys and young men, including members of the Yazidi minority, into armed conflict, radicalize them to commit terrorist acts, using deception, death threats or the offer

³⁶ See S/2017/249.

³⁷ A/71/303, paras. 32 and 56; IOM, "Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis", p. 19.

³⁸ S/2017/249, para. 90.

³⁹ See A/71/818.

⁴⁰ See A/71/261.

of money and women as rewards.⁴¹ In Nigeria, between 2014 and 2016, a total of 90 children (70 girls and 20 boys) were used by Boko Haram in 56 suicide bombings.⁴² Children are also compelled to work as porters, cooks, guards and messengers, or are forced to commit crimes, such as looting and physical and sexual violence.⁴³ In addition, boys and girls in those situations are often sexually abused.

31. The aftermath of humanitarian disasters is also a fertile ground for the illegal international adoption of children, as it is facilitated by the breakdown of institutions and the lack of border control. For example, following the earthquakes in Haiti in 2010 and Nepal in 2015, there were concerns that separated and orphaned children were being trafficked for sexual or labour exploitation, sold or illegally adopted, sometimes by well-meaning families.⁴⁴ In addition, the crossover between smuggling and trafficking represents a major risk for children,⁴⁵ including those who go missing with the aim of reaching relatives or acquaintances in another country.

(b) Vulnerability of children to exploitation in transit countries

32. Threats faced by boys and girls do not end when they leave their home countries. As they travel onward, often paying their way through dangerous routes by using exploitative smuggling and trafficking networks, children are subject to further violence, abuse and exploitation,⁴⁶ including at borders owing to pushbacks and interceptions by border control officials. Unaccompanied children and those separated from their families face heightened risks, both along the route and upon arrival in transit countries.

33. Factors contributing to the sexual exploitation of children on the move include their lack of financial resources, the failure of child protection and welfare systems to act as a safety net, the prolonged exposure to inhumane living conditions and a protracted and overly burdensome path to residence status.⁴⁷

34. In Greece, children in or outside refugee camps are sexually exploited, generally through deception about the amount they would need to earn in order to pursue their journey. Unable to collect enough money to cover their onward journey, many get discouraged and get involved in drugs, shattering any hope of continuing their journey.⁴⁸

35. Similarly, girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation in temporary reception centres and informal settlements. In northern France, some children were transported to Spain, where they were sexually exploited in order to cover the cost of their onward journey to London of around €9,000.⁴⁹ In the same area, some children claiming to be adults were sexually exploited for the promise of passage to

⁴¹ A/71/303, para. 29; A/HRC/32/32/Add.2; *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.IV.6), p. 65.

⁴² See S/2017/304.

⁴³ A/71/303, para. 29.

⁴⁴ See A/HRC/19/63; see also Anna Childs, "Why child trafficking spikes after natural disasters: and what we can do about it", 22 March 2016. Available from <http://theconversation.com/why-child-trafficking-spikes-after-natural-disasters-and-what-we-can-do-about-it-53464>.

⁴⁵ European Police Office (Europol) and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), "Migrant smuggling networks: joint Europol-INTERPOL report", May 2016, p. 9.

⁴⁶ UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 71.

⁴⁷ Vasileia Digidiki and Jacqueline Bhabha, "Emergency within an emergency: the growing epidemic of sexual exploitation and abuse of migrant children in Greece" (FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, 2017), pp. 24-26.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 23-25.

⁴⁹ UNCTF, "Neither safe nor sound: unaccompanied children on the coastline of the English Channel and the North Sea", June 2016, p. 80.

the United Kingdom or in order to pay for the journey by receiving around €5 a time for sexual services, revealing the level of pressure that they were under to raise the €5,000 to €7,000 charged for their passage.⁵⁰

36. There are also indications that the most common form of sexual exploitation for Afghani boys on the move is rape by their traffickers and their "friends", which they endure without reporting.⁵¹

37. Living in limbo for long periods owing to delays or inefficiencies in or the absence of legal paths to migration may drive children who have depleted their financial resources to seek alternative ways, whether legal or illegal, to earn money either to survive or to continue their journeys. Moreover, when they are out of school for long periods, undernourished and without health care, impoverished and beset by mounting anxieties as uncertainty drags on, children become increasingly vulnerable and desperate.⁵²

38. Children may be compelled to work to sustain themselves or provide for their families' basic needs, especially where parents cannot work legally or simply cannot find work, legally or illegally. Iraqi and Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, for example, work in textile factories, construction or the food service industry, or as agricultural labour or street vendors in conditions amounting to forced labour.⁵³ According to UNICEF, in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, shopkeepers, farmers and manufacturers hire Syrian refugee children because they can pay them a lower wage. Children, especially girls, are seen as less likely to be targeted by the police or prosecuted for illegal work than adults, making families more likely to send them to work. These types of child labour, which often mask other forms of exploitation, such as trafficking for forced labour, have dire consequences on children.

39. Moreover, in transit countries such as Libya, migrant girls are often exposed to sexual violence by parties to the conflict, as well as by smugglers, traffickers and other criminal groups.⁵⁴ They face threats and sexual violence when held, sometimes for months, in detention centres and in poor conditions, and are also abducted and sexually abused by groups pledging allegiance to ISIL.⁵⁵

40. Finally, the practice of "temporary" child or forced marriages is one of the dangerous coping mechanisms that girls face while in refugee camps in transit countries. Confronted with the economic burdens brought on by protracted displacement and limited or inexistent work opportunities, some refugee and migrant parents, and often children themselves, turn to those measures because they feel that they are the only option for safeguarding a child's future or supporting a family's immediate needs.⁵⁶ For example, Syrian refugee girls are often forcibly married by their parents, who view such arrangements as a way of securing their daughters' safety and ensuring the family's livelihood through the dowry. Once married, those girls are likely to end up in a situation of sexual and domestic exploitation by a spouse whom they have followed abroad. The use of child and

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 81. The reception centre in Calais was officially closed and informal settlements cleared in October 2016. Nonetheless, many people, including unaccompanied children, have returned and rebuilt small camps. See Anne Guillard, "Refugees start to gather in Calais again, month after camp was closed", *Guardian*, 2 April 2017. Available from www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/02/refugees-gather-calais-camp-unaccompanied-children.

⁵² UNICEF, *A Child is a Child*, pp. 40-41.

⁵³ A/71/303, para. 23.

⁵⁴ See S/2017/249.

⁵⁵ Ibid., para. 43.

⁵⁶ UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 38.

forced marriages to traffic girls into prostitution in another country is also common.⁵⁷

41. For the girls involved, these coping mechanisms have dangerous short- and long-term implications that put them at increased risk of physical and emotional abuse. Such mechanisms also reduce the likelihood that a girl will complete schooling, a reality that can have negative repercussions throughout a girl's life, including earlier childbearing, worse health outcomes and lower income.⁵⁸

42. Children are also coerced into criminal activities by adults or peers. For example, in refugee camps in Iraq and Lebanon, Syrian refugee children are trafficked for forced begging and selling items on the street.⁵⁹ Moreover, trafficked children are often obliged or induced by their exploiters to commit crimes, such as pickpocketing, burglary and drug cultivation and transportation.⁶⁰ On the route from the Horn of Africa to North-Eastern Africa, there have also been cases of trafficking for the purpose of organ removal.⁶¹ Although the extent of such crimes is unknown, children on the move travelling along these routes are also vulnerable to them.

(c) Vulnerability of children to exploitation in destination countries

43. Once children reach their destinations, they may encounter a different array of obstacles, including detention, lengthy family reunification processes (when they are available at all), discriminatory treatment while in State care, limited access to social services, education and career opportunities, and uncertainty regarding their residence status in the country.⁶² In the United States, there have been cases of trafficking in unaccompanied migrant children who, after their cases were processed by agencies of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services, have been placed with family members in the country. At times, some of those children have been trafficked for sexual and labour exploitation by criminal networks who posed as family members or forced them into begging or drug smuggling.⁶³

44. By the time children arrive at their destination, they have acquired debts with exploiters who take away their documents and use threats or violence to subdue them into labour exploitation. For example, Iranian and Afghani children who have crossed the English Channel find themselves pressured to send money to their families, while also repaying substantial debts related to their journeys.⁶⁴ This heavy financial burden drives children to accept working conditions that constitute worst forms of child labour, including trafficking. At destination, many are trafficked for forced and exploitative labour in farms and factories and on fishing boats. For example, in France and the United Kingdom, young men are exploited in cannabis farms,⁶⁵ while others are allegedly exploited in the agriculture sector in Europe.

45. Finally, the detention of children on the move may occur in both transit and destination countries, in general for identification or security purposes. Regardless of the context, detained children are profoundly and negatively affected by such detention. Children in immigration detention have been subjected to abuse, torture,

⁵⁷ A/HRC/32/41, paras. 32-33.

⁵⁸ UNICEF, *Uprooted*, 2016, p. 38.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ A/HRC/29/38, para. 20.

⁶¹ *Global Report on Trafficking in persons 2016*, p. 62.

⁶² UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 39.

⁶³ A/HRC/35/37/Add.2, para. 18.

⁶⁴ UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 39.

⁶⁵ UNICEF, "Neither safe nor sound", p. 46.

and ill-treatment or have witnessed such acts.⁶⁶ In destination countries, detained children are housed in inadequate facilities, which leads them to fall victim to sexual abuse and exploitation. Although underreported, such violence has occurred in asylum accommodations in Belgium, Germany, Sweden and Turkey.⁶⁷

C. Available responses to address the exploitation of children in the context of conflict and humanitarian crisis

46. Given the vulnerabilities of children to numerous forms of exploitation, including sale and trafficking, in the context of conflict and humanitarian crisis, a comprehensive and child rights-based response is needed. The following steps identify the required measures and highlight existing good practices as well as gaps.

1. Identification of victims and potential victims

47. Effective procedures for the identification of sold, trafficked or otherwise exploited children or potential victims are needed in places where migrants or refugees reside, including reception centres, refugee camps or informal settlements, and in areas of arrival of large influxes of people fleeing conflict and humanitarian crisis. Too often, cases of missing children, who may be victims of trafficking, go unnoticed owing to a lack of reporting procedures.⁶⁸

48. Responses to current humanitarian crises are increasingly dependent on voluntary work and, as a result, frontline workers are not always appropriately trained or able to detect such complex situations as trafficking in persons or other forms of child exploitation.⁶⁹ A lack of confidentiality or child-friendly spaces and complaint mechanisms in places where migrants or refugees reside, including reception centres, refugee camps and informal settlements, also hampers the establishment of a bond of trust with the children that would enable them to share their concerns and the risks that they face. In addition, children's lack of confidence in the protection system and the assistance available to them drives them to hide their exploitation from humanitarian workers.⁷⁰ Finally, children's experience of abuse and exploitation as well as their own statements regarding their age are met with disbelief by public services, undermining the identification process further.⁷¹

49. The use of children by migrant smuggling networks also raises concerns about the misidentification of children. Within the northern triangle of Central America, children are frequently recruited by criminal gangs to work as migrant smugglers. The voluntary nature of their decision to take part in the smuggling of migrants across the Mexican border is doubtful. While interviews have exposed that, in some cases, children started voluntarily as human smuggling guides, once part of the cartels that control the smuggling routes, children were unable to leave their

⁶⁶ See A/HRC/28/68.

⁶⁷ Women's Refugee Commission, *Falling Through the Cracks: Refugee Women and Girls in Germany and Sweden* (New York, 2016), p. 7, Council of Europe, Lanzarote Committee, "Special report: protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse", 13 March 2017.

⁶⁸ European Commission, "The protection of children in migration", 2017, p. 7.

⁶⁹ Gustav Lindskog and Lotte Clasessens, "Child and adolescent friendly spaces: providing child protection and education in emergencies — a case study from the 2015 Nepal earthquake response" (Plan International, 2016), p. 14, and UNICEF, "Neither safe nor sound", p. 70.

⁷⁰ Digidiki and Bhabha, "Emergency within an emergency".

⁷¹ House of Lords, European Union Committee, "Children in crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU", 2nd report of session 2016-17, HL Paper 34, p. 15.

exploiters. Indicators of exploitation are often overlooked by State authorities, and children are not identified as child victims of trafficking.⁷²

50. Moreover, despite existing guidelines,⁷³ approaches to the age and filiation determination of children have raised many concerns. Age determination procedures are frequently intrusive, unreliable and often expose unaccompanied children to the same violations as undocumented adults. Inaccurate age assessments and the lack of recognition of a child status have resulted in unaccompanied children facing risks of detention, deportation and violence.⁷⁴

2. Protection

51. States have the primary responsibility to protect children within their territory or subject to their jurisdiction, regardless of their status. In certain cases, when States are unable or unwilling to protect and respect children's human rights, the international community may assist.⁷⁵

52. To respect and apply the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States must ensure that protection measures follow the general principles of non-discrimination, best interests, right to life, survival, development and respect for the views of the child. Children also have the right to information, confidentiality and international protection.

53. Despite international, regional and national efforts to implement an effective humanitarian response to current crises, the increasing number of unaccompanied and separated children poses severe challenges to transit and destination countries and humanitarian agencies with respect to protecting and supporting refugee and migrant children adequately. The absence or inadequacy of child protection systems, the lack of coordination among different child protection services and the limited capacity in camps to host children in specialized and separated facilities exacerbate the risks to exploitation to which they are exposed during their journey.⁷⁶ The lengthy processing of family reunification and resettlement solutions or inefficient family reunification procedures, in addition to poor living conditions experienced in camps and the possibility to be placed in detention, are all factors driving migrant children to avoid the child protection system in transit and destination countries.⁷⁷ Moreover, a lack of knowledge and awareness among the humanitarian community about the vulnerabilities experienced by boys and girls on the move, together with the children's lack of information about their own situation, represent further barriers in protecting children's rights effectively in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis.⁷⁸ Other gaps include a lack of timely information, legal options and legal counselling, timely appointment of guardians and firewalls between child

⁷² UNHCR, "Children on the run", p. 11.

⁷³ See, for example, UNICEF, "Guidelines on the protection of child victims of trafficking", September 2006, p. 15.

⁷⁴ In its communication on the protection of children in migration, the European Union also acknowledges the disparity in procedures and inconsistency in current standards of age determinations procedures. It raises concerns about the consequences that errors in the determination of a child's age or the barriers to challenge an incorrect determination may have in the child's access to protection mechanisms.

⁷⁵ UNHCR, "Children on the run", p. 41.

⁷⁶ See, for example, the experience of children in the French camps around the English Channel area in UNICEF, "Neither safe nor sound".

⁷⁷ Digidiki and Bhabha, "Emergency within an emergency", p. 33 and UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 104.

⁷⁸ A/HRC/33/53, para. 34; UNICEF, *Uprooted*, p. 104; UNHCR, "Children on the run", p. 49; International Centre for the Human Rights of Migrants, "Forced displacement and protection needs produced by new forms of violence and criminality in Central America", study prepared for UNHCR, May 2012.

protection and migration authorities as effective means to safeguard the children's interests and protect their rights, including access to justice and remedies.

3. Access to support services: interim care

54. Children are entitled to adequate accommodation, giving priority to family-based and family-like solutions.⁷⁹ Unaccompanied or separated children should be housed in specialized camps or at least in areas separated from adults. However, the availability of specific services to address the needs of children and the general circumstances faced by children largely depend on the facility where they are housed.

55. Among good practices related to adequate child protection mechanisms in crisis responses is the creation of child-friendly spaces within interim care services. Promising examples include efforts by UNICEF and UNHCR to provide psychosocial support and other child protection services through child and family support hubs (also known as "blue dots"), which, among other services, offer children child-sensitive information on their rights, especially regarding international protection and referrals to services where necessary. Another promising example is Plan International's child-friendly space established in the wake of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal to provide children with psychological support and facilitate their return to school. These child-friendly spaces were integrated into temporary learning centres and based on child participation, allowing children to share their concerns and protection issues.

56. While some refugee and internally displaced persons camps have separate facilities for unaccompanied or separated children, they often lack family-based solutions and have very limited capacity to face the increasing number of unaccompanied or separated children. As a consequence, children share their living space with adults or are held in prolonged detention. In addition, even when children are offered a separated living area, those are often easily accessible to everyone, especially during night-time. Moreover, certain camps fail to provide basic amenities, such as appropriate health-care services or gender-differentiated sanitation. The lack of adequate lightning, the layout of some camps and a shortage of security personnel further increase the vulnerability of children to abuse.⁸⁰ Finally, the reluctance of many European countries to provide refugee children with a safe and permanent home continues to aggravate the situation by prolonging the stay of children in the facilities.⁸¹

57. A lack of coordination among services and case management gaps have also been identified, in addition to a limited capacity or lack of protocols to address child sexual abuse in public hospitals located near the camps. The absence of trained female translators and adequate psychological support constitute additional obstacles in the implementation of protection mechanisms and have important consequences in the detection and referral of child trafficking and exploitation cases.⁸²

58. Another aspect of States' failure to protect children in the context of humanitarian responses is the alarming practice of child detention owing to their irregular migration status. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and other human rights mechanisms have underscored that immigration-related detention of children can never be in their best interests and that, no matter whether they are

⁷⁹ See General Assembly resolution 64/142.

⁸⁰ Digidiki and Bhabha, "Emergency within an emergency", p. 30.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁸² Digidiki and Bhabha, "Emergency within an emergency", p. 35; UNICEF, "Neither safe nor sound", p. 22.

unaccompanied or with their families, their detention constitutes a violation of their rights that, at times, may amount to "torture and ill-treatment".⁸³ The reasons invoked by States to resort to immigration-related detention of children include health and security screening, identity verification, protection and the facilitation of removal from the country. Alternatives to child detention should be sought.⁸⁴ Children should be allowed to reside in a community-based context while their immigration status is being resolved. Good practices of such alternatives include the child-sensitive community assessment and placement model.⁸⁵

4. Adoption of durable solutions

59. A durable solution is a long-term, sustainable solution that ensures that all children, including unaccompanied and separated children, can develop into adulthood in an environment that will meet their needs and rights, including recovery and (re)integration. Such solutions may encompass voluntary repatriation, resettlement, local integration and complementary pathways to protection and other durable solutions. However, the common practice has been the return of the child to their family or country of origin as a first option. States should only return or repatriate unaccompanied children as a measure of protection, for example, to ensure family reunification in cases in which it is in the child's best interest and after due process of law.⁸⁶ Unfortunately, in countries where reception networks are overwhelmed by the increasing number of children on the move, individual assessments of the best interests of the child are not taken into account and children are placed in inadequate facilities.⁸⁷ These deficiencies in the protection system also increase children's vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking. Confronted with the States' failure to provide an adequate response, children see traffickers and smugglers as a preferable source of support.⁸⁸ These reasons, together with the gaps identified in child protection systems and the lack of reliable data and coordination among services and across transit and destination countries, contribute to the rising figures of missing children.⁸⁹ In addition, children may not wish to be identified in the first European Union country that they enter in order to escape the implications of the Dublin regulation (regulation (EU) No. 604/2013) establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person.

60. In addition, States' capacities and approach to implementing durable solutions for children vary. While some prioritize child protection, others look at it as a matter of security, do not consider such situations as their responsibility or do not have the capacity to provide child protection in conflict- and disaster-affected areas. Concerns have been raised about the policy adopted by some States to discourage unaccompanied children in transit to apply for asylum or any other form of

⁸³ See A/HRC/28/68.

⁸⁴ See A/HRC/20/24.

⁸⁵ David Corlett and others, *Captured Childhood: Introducing a New Model to Ensure The Rights and Liberty of Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Irregular Migrant Children Affected by Immigration Detention* (International Detention Coalition, 2012), p. 58.

⁸⁶ A/71/285, para. 104.

⁸⁷ A/HRC/33/53, para. 39.

⁸⁸ See <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/eu-home-affairs-subcommittee/unaccompanied-minors-in-the-eu/written/30427.html>; <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/eu-home-affairs-subcommittee/unaccompanied-minors-in-the-eu/written/30321.html> (accessed on 4 July 2017).

⁸⁹ House of Lords, European Union Committee, "Children in crisis", p. 59.

protection.⁹⁰ In Europe, in particular, States' responses are very fragmented. In places where migrants or refugees reside, including reception centres, refugee camps or informal settlements, unaccompanied children are viewed as young people in transit for whom local integration is not a suitable option.⁹¹ While family reunification applies in such cases,⁹² it is rarely implemented in practice, owing to, among other reasons, the restricted concept of family (limited to close relatives only) which does not take into account the diversity in type and composition of families across regions. In addition, the process for family reunification is often lengthy and complex.

61. Regardless of the context, children who are victims of trafficking and other forms of exploitation are entitled to the right to be identified, to protection, to assistance and support, to safe return and protection from re-trafficking and persecution, and to access remedies. They also have specific rights and requirements in respect to care, recovery and reintegration. They require holistic care provided on an individual assessment basis, while being consulted, and with their best interests at the heart of every measure taken.⁹³ States must also proactively fight impunity and bring perpetrators of trafficking and other forms of exploitation to justice by implementing international instruments fully and effectively (see section D below), addressing the specific obstacles that children may encounter as a result of their migratory status and improving cooperation across countries.

62. In response to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children by peacekeeping forces and international humanitarian personnel, the Secretary-General has appointed a Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and set up a high-level task force to develop a new strategy for preventing and responding to such abhorrent crimes. The Secretary-General has specifically called upon Member States to implement extraterritorial jurisdiction, repatriate culpable personnel, discipline repatriated personnel and hold accountable responsible officers in the chain of command.⁹⁴

D. International and regional legal framework

63. The international legal framework on the sale of, trafficking in and other forms of exploitation of children in conflict and humanitarian crises draws on several branches of international law. In some cases, common and overlapping rules operate to ensure that certain protection measures (e.g., against sale, trafficking, slavery, sexual exploitation, child and forced marriage and forced labour) are applicable in all situations, including in situations of armed conflict and humanitarian crisis.

64. International law prohibits and ensures the protection of children from sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis. This includes the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, under which States parties are required to prevent, prohibit and criminalize the exploitation and abuse of children. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also provides for the protection of children from economic and social exploitation. Furthermore, the latter treaty, along with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

⁹⁰ Ibid., p. 24.

⁹¹ UNICEF, "Neither safe nor sound", p. 10.

⁹² European Parliament, Council regulation (EU) No. 604/2013 of 26 June 2013 (see para. 59 above).

⁹³ See A/70/222.

⁹⁴ See A/71/818.

and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, enshrines the need for marriage to be based on free and full consent.

65. In addition, the absolute prohibition of slavery, which is a *jus cogens* norm under international law, is also relevant in this context. Indeed, the worst forms of child labour, child trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices can cover similar realities, even though they have their own specificities under international law.⁹⁵ Moreover, forced marriage is explicitly prohibited under the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, which provides that child and forced marriage can be considered as a form of slavery.

66. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, are also relevant to trafficking and other forms of exploitation in all contexts.

67. Instruments of the international labour law provide additional protection to children escaping from conflict and humanitarian crises. Indeed, the International Labour Organization Conventions concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour of 1999 (No. 182) and Forced or Compulsory Labour of 1930 (No. 29) call for the prohibition and elimination of, *inter alia*, trafficking in and other forms of exploitation of children. The Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers of 2011 (No. 189) is also very relevant, as exploited children on the move regularly end up in such employment.

68. Several treaties are also directly relevant at the regional level. In Europe, the Council of Europe Conventions on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, as well as the European Union directives on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (directive 2011/36/EU) and on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (directive 2011/92/EU), are vital instruments. Protection is also provided in other regions by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, and the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors.

69. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court lists, under acts that may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, the commission of rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization any other form of sexual violence and enslavement. Also of relevance are the Geneva Conventions relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts of 1949 and the Protocols Additional thereto of 1977, under which certain conduct in the context of international and non-international armed conflict, including slavery, sexual slavery, sexual violence and forced labour, is prohibited.

70. The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its Protocol of 1967 provide additional fundamental rights to refugee children. A core provision is that of non-refoulement, and basic standards are also set in respect to welfare. At the regional level, the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the European Union asylum *acquis* are also important.

⁹⁵ See A/71/261.

71. Various United Nations resolutions also address this issue. For example, the Human Rights Council has addressed child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings in its draft resolution A/HRC/35/L.26, while the Security Council, in its resolution 2225 (2015), requested the Secretary-General to include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties that engage in patterns of abduction of children in situation of armed conflict, and, in its resolution 2331 (2016), focused for the first time on trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict.

72. Other tools that fight trafficking and other forms of exploitation of children in the context of conflict and humanitarian crises include the recommended principles and guidelines on human rights and human trafficking of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/2002/68/Add.1); the UNHCR guidelines on victims of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked;⁹⁶ the UNICEF guidelines on the protection of child victims of trafficking of 2006;⁹⁷ and the minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action⁹⁸ elaborated by the Global Protection Cluster. Other standards, such as the UNICEF core commitments for children in humanitarian action,⁹⁹ the professional standards for protection work¹⁰⁰ and the guiding principles on unaccompanied and separated children of the International Committee of the Red Cross¹⁰¹ further complete the international legal protection framework against trafficking and other forms of child exploitation. The guidelines on justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime of the Economic and Social Council¹⁰² also provide further protection to child victims and guarantee their best interests.

73. Lastly, global initiatives, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, call upon States to eradicate, inter alia, trafficking in and other forms of exploitation of children in its targets 5.3, 8.7 and 16.2. In addition, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (General Assembly resolution 71/1) commits States to protect the human rights of all refugee and migrant children, regardless of their status, in particular those of unaccompanied children or of children separated from their families. The ensuing development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and of that on refugees constitutes a potential additional landmark for the protection of children on the move from trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

IV. Conclusion

74. Conflict and natural and humanitarian disasters expose children, and more particularly those unaccompanied or separated from their families, to multifaceted vulnerabilities and put them at a higher risk of being trafficked, sold and sexually exploited, coerced into child or forced marriages, and used in the worst forms of child labour. While girls are more likely to fall victims to sexual exploitation, there are nonetheless also cases of boys being abused.

⁹⁶ See www.refworld.org/docid/443679fa4.html.

⁹⁷ See www.unicef.org/protection/Unicef_Victims_Guidelines_en.pdf.

⁹⁸ See <https://cms.emergency.unhcr.org/documents/11982/80321/Child+Protection+Working+Group+-+Minimum+Standards+for+Child+Protection+in+Humanitarian+Action+2012/701dcb31-54b8-4db9-aa89-9130dc25e41a>.

⁹⁹ See https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/CCC_042010.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ See www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/icrc-002-0999.pdf.

¹⁰¹ See <https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/1101-inter-agency-guiding-principles-unaccompanied-and-separated-children>.

¹⁰² Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20.

75. Existing prevention mechanisms and responses to various forms of exploitation of children in the context of conflict and humanitarian crisis are largely ineffective and lead to precariousness. Indeed, the accurate identification of children who are victims of sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation is hindered by the inadequate training, or lack thereof, of frontline workers, challenges in age and filiation determination, and a lack of communication and coordination among various actors. In spite of some promising practices, the interim care of and durable solutions for vulnerable children on the move often do not consider the specific needs of children, especially those separated or unaccompanied who live in mixed spaces with adult migrants or refugees in areas or camps that lack basic amenities. The existence of numerous cases of sexual exploitation of children is an additional indication of the failure of a protection system meant to safeguard them.

76. Living in limbo for long periods owing to delays or inefficiencies in or the absence of regular channels for migration may drive children who have depleted their financial resources to seek alternative ways, whether legal or illegal, to earn money either to survive or to continue their journeys. This situation leads them into the arms of criminals who are able to facilitate their passage to other countries. Moreover, the use of detention for children on the move is contrary to their rights, is especially detrimental to their well-being and should not be resorted to. In addition, while it is fundamental to pursue ongoing efforts to investigate and prosecute smugglers and traffickers, more emphasis must be placed on reducing the vulnerabilities of children on the move.

77. Finally, while, the Special Rapporteurs, in the present report, aim to raise international awareness of the vulnerabilities of children to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation related to the complex situation of conflict and humanitarian crisis, by no means do they deal exhaustively with all such forms of exploitation, and the report only provides an overview of the vulnerabilities of children.

V. Recommendations

78. In view of the States' legal responsibility to identify, protect and assist children who are victims of sale and trafficking and those vulnerable to other forms of exploitation in all circumstances, including conflict and humanitarian crisis, and ensure accountability for crimes, the Special Rapporteurs offer the following recommendations.

79. The Special Rapporteurs recommend to call upon States that have not yet done so to ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court and the relevant International Labour Organization instruments.

80. In terms of identification, all States, particularly those hosting children who are victims of exploitation in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes, international organizations, host countries and civil society organizations, should:

(a) Ensure that unaccompanied and separated children are promptly identified, registered and referred to the child protection system;

(b) Ensure that such identification procedures take into account the age, gender, cultural background and maturity of the child, as well as the circumstances of his or her journey. This approach should be aimed at establishing a relationship of trust with the children, ensuring that their views are heard and duly taken into account. Child-sensitive age assessment should only be performed in cases of doubt regarding the child's age. In case of uncertainty, the person should be considered a child. Children should also be informed of the purpose and process of age assessment procedures in a language that they understand;

(c) Enhance the capacity of all stakeholders, including border and law enforcement officials, front-line workers and volunteers, in places where migrants or refugees reside, including reception centres, refugee camps or informal settlements, and in areas of arrival of large influxes of people fleeing conflict and humanitarian crisis, to ensure the systematic registration of all, including children, and the identification of cases and risks of trafficking and exploitation of children.

81. In terms of protection and assistance, States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes, international organizations, host countries and civil society organizations, should:

(a) Adopt proactive protection measures based on the best interests of the child and in line with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee laws, as well as general comment No. 14 (2013) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration when indications of sale, trafficking or other forms of exploitation are found; and take all the necessary measures to prevent the illegal adoption and sale of children in the context of conflict and humanitarian crises;

(b) Recognize the international protection needs, actual and potential, of children and adopt standardized, child-sensitive screening protocols, as well as child-friendly mechanisms to systematically report and respond to instances of missing children, including by reporting to the police;

(c) Establish or adapt national referral mechanisms for assistance and protection services, including gender- and child-sensitive measures, for victims and potential victims of sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation, involving national authorities and civil society organizations in decision-making;

(d) Ensure the provision of health and psychosocial services in places where migrants or refugees reside, including reception centres, refugee camps or informal settlements, as well as access to education, religious and cultural practices. Ensure also that practitioners are trained and supported in working with distressed, traumatized children and victims of trafficking and exploitation. Services must be child-friendly and give consideration to the cultural, religious and social norms and values of these children;

(e) Create safe child-friendly spaces in places where migrants or refugees reside, including reception centres, refugee camps or informal settlements that host children and offer them space for recreation, study and rest, separated from other facilities, and ensure that those areas are family-based and family-like, whenever possible;

(f) Appoint trained and independent translators in areas and services that are or could potentially be in contact with vulnerable migrant and refugee children to facilitate effective communication and access to services;

(g) Ensure that children have full access to information about their rights and the protection and support services available to them, that this information is accurate, timely and comprehensive and that it is delivered in a manner that takes into consideration their age, language and cultural background.

82. In terms of durable solutions, States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes, international organizations, host countries and civil society organizations, should:

(a) Ensure that child victims have the right to receive long-term care and protection, including full access to health care, psychosocial support, social services, education, vocational training and life skills education. In consultation with the child and in coordination with the local child welfare systems, an individual plan should be adopted, and arrangements need to be found that favour family- and community-based solutions;

(b) Ensure that, in the child's best interests, sufficient resources are allocated to the family reunification procedures to ensure the operational capacity to carry out evaluations in a reasonable time and reduce the overall length of the process; and adopt a broad interpretation of family, taking into consideration cultural differences and the best interests of the child;

(c) Fully respect non-refoulement obligations deriving from international human rights, humanitarian, refugee and customary international law, in particular the obligations codified in article 33 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and article 3 of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The repatriation of any child can only be decided when it is evidenced on a case-by-case basis that it is in his or her best interests and after ensuring, by means of a procedure with proper safeguards, that the child, upon return, will be safe and provided with proper care and custody;

(d) Grant non-nationals who are victims of trafficking residence status and assistance, not to be made conditional on the initiation of criminal proceedings or their cooperation with law enforcement authorities.

83. In terms of access to justice, prosecution and sanctions, States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes, international organizations, host countries and civil society organizations, should:

(a) Ensure that national legislation prohibits and criminalizes the sale of and trafficking in children as separate crimes, with penalties that reflect the gravity of those crimes;

(b) Ensure that legislation, policies, measures and practices guarantee child-sensitive due processes in all migration-related administrative and judicial proceedings affecting the rights of children or of their parents. All children, including those accompanied by parents or other legal guardians, must be treated as individual rights-holders, not criminals, their child-specific needs must be considered equally and individually and their views must be duly heard. They must have access to administrative and judicial remedies against decisions on their own situation or that of their parents that affect them in order to guarantee that all decisions are taken in their best interests. Children should be able to bring complaints beyond legal or court procedures at lower

levels that should be easily accessible to them, such as those of child protection and youth institutions, schools or the ombudsperson, and they should be able to receive advice from professionals in a child-sensitive manner when their rights have been violated;

(c) Ensure easy access to child-sensitive complaint and reporting mechanisms for child sexual abuse and exploitation, through comprehensive and adequately resourced child protection systems;

(d) Ensure that a legal representative for all children (including families) and a trained guardian for unaccompanied and separated children are appointed as soon as possible upon arrival, free of charge;

(e) Ban the administrative detention of children, in particular, but not only, for violations of immigration laws and regulations; ensure that children who are victims of or vulnerable to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation are not detained, prosecuted or punished for violations of immigration laws or for unlawful activities that they are involved in as a direct consequence of their situation as victims of exploitation. When the child's best interests require keeping the family together, the imperative requirement not to deprive the child of liberty should extend to the child's parents and requires that the authorities choose alternatives to detention for the entire family;

(f) Ensure the accountability of military and peacekeeping troops and of international humanitarian personnel in cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation by implementing zero tolerance for such crimes, setting up prompt and effective investigations and prosecutions, implementing commensurate penalties for those guilty of such crimes, taking such measures as repatriation and the termination of deployment, withholding funds and providing reparation for victims. Care, recovery and reintegration measures should also be provided to child victims as part of their right to a remedy.

84. The United Nations should ensure that the sale of and trafficking in children are linked to the six grave violations and abuses against children.¹⁰³ When linked to trafficking, such violations are particularly egregious and should be given special consideration as grounds on which to bar countries repeatedly listed as being involved in those violations in the annual reports of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict from contributing troops to United Nations operations. In addition, when such violations constitute international crimes, the international community should ensure that perpetrators are held accountable by, *inter alia*, referring cases to the International Criminal Court, as a means to combat impunity and ensure that such heinous crimes do not go unpunished.

85. In terms of prevention and the promotion of rights, States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes, international organizations, host countries and civil society organizations, should:

(a) Recognize and address the specific vulnerability of boys and girls to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian crisis situations;

(b) Prevent the sale of and trafficking in children, especially targeting unaccompanied children, such as orphans, children left behind by parents fleeing conflict and children moving alone to flee conflict and humanitarian crisis areas;

¹⁰³ See Security Council resolution 1612 (2005); <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/effects-of-conflict/six-grave-violations/>.

(c) Prevent sexual exploitation by the military, extremist groups or family members, as well as child or forced marriages, whether in refugee or internally displaced persons camps or in the host country;

(d) Identify measures to prevent the sexual and labour exploitation of children, including by establishing accessible, safe and regular channels of migration, respecting the principle of non-refoulement and ensuring that, whenever relevant, migrant and refugee children have regular access to the labour market in the host country;

(e) Collect and analyse disaggregated data on the crimes of sale of, trafficking in and other forms of exploitation of children, in order to inform the design and implementation of effective prevention and protection policies to combat those phenomena;

(f) Address factors that increase the root causes of vulnerabilities of children to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation in the context of conflict and humanitarian crisis by adopting and implementing strategies that tackle, among other factors, inequality, poverty and all forms of discrimination, including in the context of the strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

86. In terms of cooperation and coordination, States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes, international organizations, host countries and civil society organizations, should:

(a) Strengthen collaboration, data sharing and the exchange of good practices among Governments, humanitarian agencies and civil society on the identification, referral and assessment of children at risk of sale, trafficking and exploitation;

(b) Actively participate in and support international initiatives, such as Alliance 8.7 and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure that children grow up free from violence and exploitation, and engage in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the global compact on refugees;

(c) Support the work of the independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General to lead the work of a new in-depth global study on the situation of children deprived of liberty by providing him with the necessary means and resources to fulfil his mandate, as an effective means to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the development of alternatives to the detention of children.



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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, in accordance with Assembly resolution 70/166 and Human Rights Council resolution 34/6.

* A/72/150.



Report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Summary

The present report is the final report prepared by the current mandate holder, Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, to the General Assembly. She reflects on her six-year tenure as Special Rapporteur on minority issues, providing an overview of the main activities relating to her mandate, including a summary of thematic reports, communications, country visits, the Forum on Minority Issues and other relevant issues.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 70/166 and Human Rights Council resolution 34/6.
2. Section II of the report provides a brief overview of all the thematic reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur throughout her tenure. Section III focuses on follow-up to her country missions, in particular the implementation of the recommendations. Section IV provides an overview of communications sent. Section V covers the Forum on Minority Issues. Section VI presents the main findings of the analysis of the recommendations on minorities during the second cycle of the universal periodic review process. The final section contains overarching conclusions and recommendations.

II. Main concerns and recommendations from all thematic reports

A. Reports to the General Assembly

3. Since the establishment of the mandate, the mandate holders have submitted annual thematic reports to the Human Rights Council. Since 2012, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/166, the mandate holder has also submitted annual reports to the Assembly. The present section provides an overview of the content and recommendations of the reports of the outgoing Special Rapporteur.
1. **2012: Role and activities of national institutional mechanisms in promoting and protecting minority rights (A/67/293)**
 4. In her first report to the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur emphasizes that ensuring the enjoyment of minority rights and equality in practice requires an understanding and appreciation of minority issues and problems facing minorities. Positive change in the situations of disadvantaged minorities can be provided by appropriate institutional attention to minority rights and a policy and programme framework within which to address minority issues. Legislative protection of minority rights in national law is an essential foundation. The logical next step, from legislation to concrete action for the protection and promotion of minority rights, is provided by institutional attention.
 5. Dedicated institutional attention provides the necessary impetus for the proactive implementation of minority rights, including positive measures, consultative and participatory mechanisms and processes, and activities directed towards disadvantaged minorities, which are often lacking. In States in which minority populations are significant, where inter-community relations are complex, where long-term challenges persist or where ethnic or religious tensions or conflict exist or have previously occurred, institutional attention may be particularly appropriate.
 6. In her report, the Special Rapporteur considers essential elements of institutional attention to minority issues and provides an overview of some practices adopted by States and the functions, roles and activities of institutions in respect of promoting and protecting the rights of minorities. A key recommendation is that States consider institutional attention to minority rights as an essential component of their human rights, equality and non-discrimination obligations and as a means of practically implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

2. 2013: Minority rights-based approaches to the protection and promotion of the rights of religious minorities (A/68/268)

7. The Special Rapporteur recognizes that religious minorities face discrimination, social exclusion, marginalization and, in many instances, harassment, persecution and violence. Her second report to the General Assembly is dedicated, therefore, to the rights of religious minorities. In the report, she stresses that their rights go beyond freedom of religion and belief and non-discrimination and voices concern that the wider collective rights of religious minorities are frequently neglected by Governments.

8. In all regions, persons belonging to religious minorities face daily human rights violations, ranging from violations of their individual rights and discrimination on the basis of their religious or belief identities to attacks on their community activities and violence against them, their places of worship or their homes. The violations lie at the intersection of a number of realities, including the State's religion or ideology relationship, the State's demographic makeup, the constitutional and legislative framework, the personal status laws, intercommunal relationships and the role of non-State actors — each of them and their combined effect have a profound impact on the human rights situation of religious minorities. Historical, geopolitical and inter-State factors may in some cases exacerbate the discrimination, exclusion and vulnerability experienced by religious minorities. National and international human rights responses to the challenges faced by religious minorities must seek to uphold their equal enjoyment of international human rights, including through the protection and promotion of minority rights.

9. The security situation of religious minorities in some States is cause for serious concern and requires the urgent attention of national Governments, regional intergovernmental human rights bodies and the United Nations. Acts of violence and widespread and systematic violations of human rights — sometimes by the State itself — threaten the very existence of religious minorities in some States or territories. States have the responsibility to protect human rights and security for all and to create conditions of peace and stability. They must act appropriately and rapidly to protect the rights and security of religious minorities under threat and prosecute anyone who commits, supports or incites violence against them.

10. The Special Rapporteur stresses that, in multi-faith societies, efforts to build a climate of trust, understanding, acceptance and interfaith cooperation and exchange benefit the whole of society and are essential elements of good governance and measures to prevent grievances, tensions and conflict. The active engagement and leadership of religious, community and political actors is essential to such efforts and should be encouraged and supported, including through the establishment of formal and informal mechanisms for dialogue, exchanges of views and consideration of interfaith and intercommunity initiatives.

3. 2014: Preventing and addressing violence and atrocities against minorities (A/69/266)

11. In the report, the Special Rapporteur observes that minorities are frequently the victims of violence and atrocities, which can take the form of attacks on individuals, their homes, shops or places of worship, or wider acts of aggression against communities with different national, ethnic or religious identities. In the worst cases, violence constitutes mass atrocities, crimes against humanity, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and even genocide. Although often perpetrated by State actors, sometimes violence is committed by non-State actors, including those belonging to the majority, or more powerful groups, extremist groups or even business actors.

12. Violence against minorities throughout the world demonstrates that action is required in all regions to protect minorities at risk. In many cases, violence is committed with impunity, which can fuel further violence. In her report, the Special Rapporteur seeks to identify some of the major causes of violence against minorities and to consider action that should be taken by States and other actors to prevent and appropriately address violence and to ensure that it does not persist or escalate. Such causes include exclusionary ideologies, deficits of democracy and rule of law, hate speech, past and unresolved grievances, a history of ethnic or religious tensions between groups without reconciliation, agitation of ethnic or religious components by political leaders and impunity when perpetrators act without consequences.

13. Predicting and preventing violence must not remain an academic exercise. Post-violence analysis has helped to develop indicators and improve the potential to raise the alarm and trigger early warning mechanisms; however, analysis conducted after violence has begun means that the action taken is often too little and too late. The lessons of past atrocities must be put into practice when the warning signs are clear and States must become more capable of responding to them.

14. The comprehensive implementation of minority rights, non-discrimination and equality standards constitutes an important foundation for the prevention of violence against minority communities and helps to establish the conditions for stability and harmonious relations among population groups. Mechanisms to ensure dialogue, consultation and participation, the fundamental principles of minority rights, should be established to assist States in understanding the situations of minorities, their issues and their concerns. Where violence has previously taken place, such mechanisms are of particular relevance, including in post-conflict and post-violence reconciliation and peacebuilding processes. Establishing institutions for the protection of minority rights and ensuring attention to minority rights within existing national and human rights institutions are essential violence prevention measures. Such institutional attention facilitates early warning and early response and the establishment of the appropriate policy frameworks and violence prevention strategies that are essential to the prevention of violence.

4. 2015: Minorities in the criminal justice system (A/70/212)

15. The Special Rapporteur is alarmed by the many allegations that she has received of human rights violations committed against minorities in the administration of criminal justice, owing to their minority status. This report addresses the rights of minorities in relation to all stages of the criminal justice process, beginning with policing practices before arrest, through to arrest, trial and sentencing.

16. The Special Rapporteur underscores the importance of strict non-discrimination at the policing stage, arguing that, should a disproportionate number of individuals from a minority group find themselves in contact with the police as a result of discrimination, then even if, formally, every other step of the process functions impartially, minorities will, similarly, be disproportionately represented throughout that process. In the report, she notes with concern the subjection of minorities to excessive use of force by the police, torture or other ill-treatment in policing. Given that racial profiling and excessive use of force against minorities in policing often stem from embedded discrimination, the Special Rapporteur recommends that States go beyond mere prohibitions and instead take proactive steps to prevent such conduct.

17. Even after formal arrest, minorities tend to be overrepresented in pretrial detention and face longer periods of such detention. At the stage of judicial procedures and hearings, minorities may also experience particular obstacles to

realizing their rights to equality before the law, non-discrimination and a fair trial. At the sentencing stage, minorities often face a greater likelihood of imprisonment, longer terms of imprisonment or a sentence of life imprisonment without possibility of parole, and a greater likelihood of imposition of the death penalty.

18. Globally, minorities face discrimination and a lack of representation within the administration of criminal justice. Measures to eliminate discrimination and ensure equality before the law are more likely to be effective if taken by adopting a minority rights-based approach, which includes ensuring the effective participation of minorities in all aspects of the criminal justice process and administration of justice. This includes the recruitment, retention and progression of minorities, including at the most senior levels, in all positions connected with the criminal justice system. Furthermore, minorities must be included in designing laws and policies and advising on procedures to further ensure that such instruments do not have a disproportionate impact on minorities.

5. 2016: Minorities in situations of humanitarian crises (A/71/254)

19. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the scale of global humanitarian needs is higher than ever. As at December 2015, there were an estimated 125 million people in need of humanitarian assistance worldwide. Although there are no exact data on how many minorities are affected by crises and where, during the course of her mandate the Special Rapporteur has observed that minorities can be disproportionately affected, whether directly or indirectly, owing to their minority status, during the crisis itself or in the aftermath when seeking protection.

20. Belonging to a minority group can be a direct factor leading to displacement in the context of conflict. Indeed, and regrettably, many contemporary conflicts are based on superiority ideologies in which targeting minorities is one of the key drivers of the conflict. Even outside fully fledged armed conflicts, discrimination against minority groups in societies may reach such levels that it results in hate-based crimes and leads to internal displacement. In the report, the Special Rapporteur looks at the specific challenges or discrimination that minorities may face during or after potential displacement or disruption owing to a humanitarian crisis or disaster, even when the trigger of that displacement or changed situation is not directly linked to their affiliation to that minority group. Analysing both natural and human-caused disasters, she indicates that minority communities may be more vulnerable to disasters, insofar as they may be both inadequately prepared for such emergencies and disproportionately affected by them.

21. Furthermore, minority communities are also less likely to be equal beneficiaries of adequate humanitarian aid and rehabilitation when or after disasters strike, a discrepancy that often then extends to the rehabilitation phase, thereby keeping minorities socially and economically behind in their longer-term recovery from such events.

22. The Special Rapporteur stresses, therefore, that the humanitarian system needs to make a concerted effort to ensure that the responses meet the needs of people who are hard to reach, including the specific needs of minority communities. Efforts need to take into account the vulnerability of minorities to displacement and multiple forms of discrimination during crises, as well as the specific challenges facing minorities affected by crises owing to their very situation as minorities. Overall, the Special Rapporteur notes that responsible emergency preparedness and response efforts that incorporate a minority rights approach, ensuring that minority voices can raise their concerns and opinions regarding relief and recovery efforts,

can be critical to preventing disasters from having a disproportionate impact on or further ravaging the lives of minority communities.

B. Reports to the Human Rights Council

1. 2012: Priorities for the work of the Independent Expert and the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/HRC/19/56)

23. This first report submitted to the Human Rights Council outlines the then Independent Expert's reflections on how to fulfil the requirements of her mandate and promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. In this connection she identifies areas of focus, including the rights of linguistic minorities; the rights and security of religious minorities; recognition of minorities; cross-cutting issues, such as young people and women belonging to minorities; achieving the Millennium Development Goals for disadvantaged minorities; the role of minority rights protection in conflict prevention; the role of minorities in advocating their rights; and increased outreach and networking with minority groups.

24. As the year 2012 marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, the Independent Expert welcomed and encouraged activities in all regions to mark the anniversary and to raise awareness of the Declaration and the rights of minorities. She also noted the important role of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system regarding the promotion and protection of minority rights.

2. 2013: Rights of linguistic minorities (A/HRC/22/49)

25. Globally, many minority languages are under threat of significant decline or disappearance owing to such factors as the dominance of national and international languages, processes of assimilation and decline in minority-language users. In many cases, the disappearance of minority languages is a result of the failure to protect minority rights, including the lack of national legal protection for minority languages.

26. For minorities, language is a central element and an expression of their identity and of key importance in the preservation of group identity. In many cases, a strong community desire exists to maintain minority languages as a core and indispensable element of culture and identity. Even if this is sometimes viewed by Governments as divisive and counter to State ideologies and policies to promote national identity, national unity, integration and territorial integrity, States are obligated to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of linguistic minorities, and restrictions must be in the public interest and proportional to the aims sought.

27. Globally, grievances and tensions relating to language rights and the rights of linguistic minorities have emerged and have even led to conflict. Restrictions on the rights to use minority languages freely may be, or may be interpreted as, a threat to minority identity. It is important to acknowledge that issues relating to linguistic minorities and their rights may have implications for security and national stability. Protection of linguistic minority rights is a human rights obligation and an essential component of good governance, efforts to prevent tensions and conflict, and the construction of equal and politically and socially stable societies. To create unity in diversity requires dialogue with all stakeholders, including on how to accommodate appropriately the language needs and rights of all groups.

28. Following her thematic study on the rights of linguistic minorities, the Special Rapporteur produced a handbook, *Language Rights of Linguistic Minorities: A Practical Guide for Implementation*, which is available in the six official languages of the United Nations on the mandate holder's website. The handbook is intended to serve as a practical tool to assist policymakers and rights holders to develop a better understanding of linguistic rights and to highlight good practices that could be replicated in different contexts.

3. 2014: Ensuring the inclusion of minority issues in post-2015 development agendas (A/HRC/25/56)

29. Building on her predecessor's work and earlier report on this topic (A/HRC/4/9) and in the context of the then impending 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and setting the stage for the post-2015 development agenda, the Special Rapporteur dedicated a thematic report to ensuring the inclusion of minority issues in post-2015 development agendas.

30. In her report, the Special Rapporteur notes with concern her predecessor's finding that lack of attention to the situations of minorities constitutes one of the most serious deficiencies of the Millennium Development Goal process and an important impediment to achieving certain Goals in some States. She emphasizes that minorities remain among the poorest and most socially and economically excluded and marginalized communities globally, and that tens of millions of persons belonging to minorities are trapped in a cycle of discrimination, exclusion, poverty and underdevelopment from which they cannot break free without targeted attention being given to their situations. Poverty within minority communities is both a cause and a manifestation of their diminished rights, opportunities and social advancement. The Special Rapporteur deeply regrets that despite the pledges for an inclusive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is no explicit reference to minorities in the final document. She firmly believes that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda can be achieved only by taking into consideration the situation of minorities, and calls upon States to fulfil in practice the principle of leaving no one behind, in particular in relation to all minorities.

31. In her report, the Special Rapporteur emphasizes that, within the framework of a strong equality-focused goal or goals, it will be crucial to establish specific targets for States on the inclusion of minorities and specific indicators upon which to measure progress. The participation of minorities needs to be ensured and increased in all phases. Targeted affirmative action policies for addressing the economic and social exclusion of minorities, including specific social and economic development plans for marginalized groups and the regions in which they live, are required.

4. 2015: Thematic study on hate speech and incitement to hatred against minorities in the media (A/HRC/28/64)

32. The Special Rapporteur is alarmed by the high number of complaints reaching her about hateful messages and incitement to hatred that have fuelled tensions and often led to hate crimes. She believes that more should be done to monitor and react, in a timely manner, to hate speech and incitement to hatred and violence to prevent tensions and violence that damage the entire fabric, unity and stability of societies.

33. In her report, the Special Rapporteur notes that hatred is often constructed, fuelled, maintained and directed against individuals and communities who are different in ethnicity, language or religion from the dominant majority, often for political reasons or as a result of long-standing and entrenched discrimination. Hateful messages may fall on particularly fertile ground where there are wider

social, economic or political problems or divisions in society. Governments, civil society and the international community must be alert to the early warning signs of hatred and violence, such as an atmosphere of discomfort and animosity when minorities exercise their right to freely and openly practise their religion, use their language or assert their right to have a voice in political life and the decisions that affect them. If hate speech and hate incidents are not tackled swiftly and effectively, targeted groups may experience permanent damage to their self-esteem and sense of belonging within their societies, thereby increasing their marginalization. At the same time, majority communities may gradually become desensitized, to the point where they begin to accept the hostility towards and stigmatization of certain groups in their societies.

34. It is indicated in the report that a number of factors lead to hate speech and incitement to hatred in the media, including the absence of or unclear legislation on incitement to hatred, the limited access and representation of minorities in the media, the existence of structural societal inequalities, the changing media landscape and the emerging and more organized forms of extremist and populist movements. Positive initiatives implemented by a broad range of actors, including international organizations, States, civil society and individuals, to contest hate speech and incitement to hatred in the media, are also highlighted in the report.

5. 2015: Comprehensive study of the human rights situation of Roma worldwide, with a particular focus on the phenomenon of anti-Gypsyism (A/HRC/29/24)

35. In response to Human Rights Council resolution 26/4 on the protection of Roma, the Special Rapporteur prepared a comprehensive study of the human rights situation of Roma worldwide. She applies a minority rights-based approach to the protection and promotion of the rights of Roma, including the protection of their existence; the prevention of violence against Roma; the protection and promotion of Roma identity; the guarantee of the rights to non-discrimination and equality, including combating racism, anti-Gypsyism and structural discrimination; and the guarantee of the right of Roma to effective participation in public life, especially with regard to decisions affecting them. Drawing on the responses to her questionnaire, the Special Rapporteur provides an overview of trends in State practice, highlighting positive developments and challenges.

36. In her report, the Special Rapporteur notes that the largest and most visible Roma minority is European Roma, whose presence in Europe dates back to the fourteenth century. Today, there are some 11 million European Roma and the severe discrimination and marginalization that they continue to experience has been widely reported. Regrettably, however, little comprehensive research has been carried out on the situation of Roma outside Europe. The Special Rapporteur took the opportunity, therefore, to report on the severe socioeconomic marginalization that Roma experience worldwide, including in the Russian Federation, Latin and North America, Central Asia and the Middle East. According to the Special Rapporteur, Roma communities worldwide still face situations of extreme poverty and marginalization across a wide range of human rights indicators. Although the reasons for that marginalization are complex, the overarching factor is the deeply embedded social and structural discrimination that Roma face worldwide, including anti-Gypsyism.

37. The Special Rapporteur believes it is necessary to reflect on the lessons learned, both globally and in particular from the European experience, to understand better why existing approaches have not managed to bring about structural change. She discusses overall challenges, including lack of accurate disaggregated data; the absence of political will; insufficient Roma participation; lack of a multisectoral, human rights-centred approach in policy development; low awareness of complaint

mechanisms; limited recognition of history and lack of measures to address long-standing prejudices and racism; and insufficient funding and bureaucratic obstacles. The Special Rapporteur urges all relevant stakeholders to think outside the "poverty paradigm" and incorporate all aspects of minority rights into strategies that address Roma disadvantage, including the protection and promotion of Roma identity, language and culture and the guarantee of dignity and equality. The protection and promotion of the rights of Roma should be prioritized on the political agenda in order to demonstrate a serious political commitment to combating the causes and consequences of anti-Gypsyism and discrimination.

6. 2016: Minorities and discrimination based on caste and analogous systems of inherited status (A/HRC/31/56)

38. The Special Rapporteur is concerned by information that she has received regarding incidents of discrimination in caste-based and analogous systems of inherited status. In her report, she emphasizes that caste-based discrimination is a global phenomenon, estimated to affect more than a quarter of a billion people across the globe, including in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific region and in diaspora communities. This serious human rights violation infringes upon the basic principles of universal human dignity and equality, as it differentiates between "inferior" and "superior" categories of individuals because of their inherited caste status. It also leads to extreme exclusion and dehumanization of caste-affected communities, who are often among the most disadvantaged populations, experience the worst socioeconomic conditions and are deprived of or severely restricted in the enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

39. In her report, the Special Rapporteur highlights some common characteristics of caste and analogous systems of inherited status, including their hereditary nature and their connection with untouchability practices and, in turn, enforced endogamy, which can mean the prohibition of inter-caste interactions, including marriage and the sharing of goods or services. She notes with concern the use of violence against individuals and communities of caste-affected groups, the obstacles to participation in public elections, general political marginalization, confinement to certain menial occupations, forced and bonded labour, segregated colonies or informal settlements, restricted access to drinking water and sanitation facilities, denial of or restrictions on health-care services, considerable disparities in educational opportunities and blockage from religious sites. The report includes a focus on women from disadvantaged castes, who are often the victims of caste-based violence, in particular sexual violence, trafficking, early and/or forced marriage, bonded labour and harmful cultural practices.

40. States should adopt specific legislation prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of caste or analogous systems, fully implement legal provisions, including appropriate penalties for acts of caste-based discrimination, and put in place special measures in specific areas. Discrimination based on caste and analogous systems is deeply embedded in interpersonal and communal relationships in caste-affected countries. Therefore, overcoming it will require not only legal and political responses, but also community-based approaches aimed at changing the mindsets of individuals and the collective conscience of local communities. In this regard, formal and informal community education and open dialogue from an early age are essential elements to ensure that the principles of human dignity and equality generally are accepted and respected.

7. 2017: Reflections on the six-year tenure of the Special Rapporteur (A/HRC/34/53)

41. In her final report to the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur provides some reflections on her six-year tenure. In particular, she analyses the eight priority areas identified at the beginning of her mandate and provides updates on achievements in those areas.

42. She notes with concern that a number of major challenges persist in the promotion and protection of minority rights. In particular, she expresses concern that with increasing hate speech, xenophobic rhetoric and incitement to hatred against minorities, coupled with the rise of extremists and far-right political parties, the progress achieved during the past decades in the field of minority rights protection is under threat. She therefore urges that swift and concrete guarantees be put in place to preserve those achievements and to allow further improvement. Such guarantees must come in the form of strengthened legislative and institutional frameworks for minority rights protection, as well as demonstrating an unequivocal political will to foster conditions for a cohesive society where there is unity in diversity.

43. The Special Rapporteur has observed challenges to the use of the term "minority" for certain distinct communities. She considers that further awareness-raising is required to fully convey the meaning, scope and implications of the term, so that it can be reclaimed and used with the empowering intent that it actually holds. Moreover, she recalls that the existence of an ethnic, religious or linguistic minority in a given State does not depend upon a decision by the Government but needs to be established using objective criteria.

44. The Special Rapporteur remains gravely concerned at the limited or often complete lack of a minority presence in political and public offices. She has repeatedly stressed the need to ensure that minorities are included in all decision-making processes, including in municipal and government structures, law enforcement bodies, the judiciary, legislative bodies, criminal justice systems and all other relevant bodies and mechanisms, especially when their decisions affect minorities. Without their participation, such bodies are less able to take vital decisions for the benefit of the entire society and may be less trusted by minorities, who may be reluctant to access them or discouraged from doing so. Moreover, good and inclusive governance, which includes minorities and measures to ensure equality, are key conflict-prevention prerequisites.

45. Lastly, she notes the importance of the role of the United Nations in the protection of minorities, including through the establishment of specific minority focal points within the Secretariat and ensuring minority representation in United Nations staffing.

III. Follow-up to country visits

46. In October 2016, the Special Rapporteur wrote to all States¹ visited officially by her predecessor and herself to inquire about the implementation of the recommendations contained in the country visit reports. She wishes to thank Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, France, Greece, Hungary, Rwanda and Viet Nam for their responses. The Special Rapporteur provides below an

¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Rwanda, Ukraine and Viet Nam. The country visits conducted in 2016 (Iraq, Republic of Moldova and Sri Lanka) have not been included.

overview of the main developments in the States concerned regarding the implementation of the recommendations. The full responses of the States are available on the website of the mandate holder.²

A. Bosnia and Herzegovina

47. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the establishment of the National Minorities Council under the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The role and funding of the Council, which gathers representatives of the 17 national minorities recognized by law, has been strengthened. The Special Rapporteur also welcomes the fact that the 2013 population census allowed multiple responses with regard to self-identification, in line with her recommendation that census questions should allow open and multiple responses, and that the enumeration was conducted in three languages (Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian) using Latin and Cyrillic script. Preliminary census results, published in 2016, show that 50.11 per cent of the population identify as Bosniaks, 30.78 per cent as Serbs and 15.43 per cent as Croats. Less than 3 per cent of the population falls under the category of "others", including members of the 17 national minorities and other ethnic groups.

48. With respect to the recommendations on the situation of Roma communities, the State referred to the adoption of a revised action plan for Roma in the areas of employment, housing and health care, covering the period 2013-2016, and provided examples of the scope of specific measures and the number of Roma beneficiaries in those areas. With regard to the drafting of the iteration of the action plan for 2017-2020, the Special Rapporteur stresses the importance of including Roma in all stages of planning, implementation and evaluation and calls upon the State to continue its efforts to improve the situation of Roma communities.

49. The Special Rapporteur regrets the lack of implementation of her recommendation with respect to national minorities and those within the category of "others" having equal rights to stand for any government position, including the need for constitutional reform to remove discriminatory provisions following the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Sejdić and Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina*. The State is of the opinion that the enforcement of this decision and others by the Court would adequately tackle discriminatory provisions for national minorities and members of the category "others", but states that the implementation of this decision requires political agreement in the country. The Special Rapporteur reiterates that constitutional reform should not be portrayed as a threat to peace or the rights of any group, but as a positive process necessary to ensure equal opportunities of political participation for all.

B. Bulgaria

50. Bulgaria informed the Special Rapporteur that in 2012 the minorities portfolio had been transferred to the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues, a coordinating and consultative body tasked with assisting the Government in the formulation of a policy on the integration of minority groups. The Special Rapporteur was pleased to learn that a specialized body had been established within the Council to monitor the implementation of the national strategy for Roma integration, which covers the period 2012-2020.

² See www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Minorities/SRMinorities/Pages/Followuponcountryvisitrecommendations.aspx.

51. The Special Rapporteur recognizes the country's enhanced efforts to integrate Roma children into the education system, including the amendment of the Public Education Act, which introduced a mandatory two-year course before first grade with the aim of providing equal opportunities for children. Moreover, she welcomes measures directed at members of minority groups, including the adoption of a strategy for the educational integration of children and students from ethnic minority groups covering the period 2015-2020 and a corresponding action plan; the introduction in 2012 of a national programme known as "School without Absences" to reduce dropout rates; and the launch of an adult literacy programme.

52. The Special Rapporteur thanks Bulgaria for its detailed response on measures aimed at fostering the inclusion of Roma in the areas of housing, employment and health care and highlights the following programmes: the national programme for the improvement of the housing conditions of Roma, covering the period 2005-2015; the agreement on the social inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups signed under the cooperation programme between Bulgaria and Switzerland; the programme entitled "Activation of inactive persons" of the Employment Agency; and the programme entitled "Take your life in your own hands", which is intended to reach long-term unemployed persons from vulnerable population groups. She notes that a position of "health mediator" was included in the national classification of occupations and in 2014 the number of mediators increased to 150 in 79 target municipalities throughout the country.

C. Canada

53. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the commitment of Canada to reinstating and modernizing the Court Challenges Program, in line with the recommendation made by the former mandate holder to review its abolishment in order to increase access to justice for Canadians of all backgrounds.

54. The Special Rapporteur further welcomes the information received on measures in the areas of labour market integration and education. She thanks Canada for highlighting some specific examples of promotion of equality in the education system by provincial and territorial governments in its response. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur is pleased to learn about the Government's commitment to enhancing the representation of minorities in the political sphere and that, following the federal election in 2015, almost 17 per cent of ministers appointed to the Cabinet by the Prime Minister were persons belonging to minorities. Currently, there are 47 minority Members of Parliament and 10 members from indigenous communities, a record high for both groups. The Special Rapporteur commends the Government for establishing the Cabinet Committee on Diversity and Inclusion tasked with examining initiatives designed to strengthen the relationship with indigenous Canadians, improve the economic performance of immigrants and promote Canadian diversity, multiculturalism and linguistic duality.

55. With respect to measures to combat racial profiling, Canada recalled the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Human Rights Act, which prohibit such discrimination, and referred to the training of police officers as an important component of the application of the country's human rights-based approach to public safety. She welcomes the fact that Canadian police, border and intelligence officers are taught about cultural diversity and undertaking their duties free from bias.

D. Colombia

56. Colombia informed the Special Rapporteur of developments that had strengthened the legal framework on minority rights protection since the visit of her predecessor, including the passing in 2011 of Act No. 1482 on combating racial discrimination, in line with the recommendation of the former mandate holder to enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation banning discrimination on all grounds including race, and the signature of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. The Special Rapporteur notes that, since the entry into force of Act No. 1482, 300 investigations have been conducted by the Office of the Prosecutor, of which 101 are related to victims of African descent. In addition, in 2011 the Victims and Land Restitution Act entered into force, as did related decrees. The Special Rapporteur considers that this legal framework, which recognizes both the collective rights of indigenous communities and communities of African descent over their territories and the individual rights of their members, who have been the victims of human rights violations, is a commendable development. The State also referred to policies and projects adopted in the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, including a cooperation project on strengthening the inclusion of Afro-Colombian, Palenquero and Raizal communities, to improve the living conditions of those groups.

57. With respect to data collection, the Special Rapporteur welcomes the State's inclusion of a differential approach for ethnic groups in the census forms, which include a self-identification question, in preparation for the population census in 2016.

E. France

58. The Special Rapporteur remains concerned with the position of France with respect to the reservation that it made to article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights relating to the rights of persons belonging to minorities, based on the constitutional principles of equality before the law and the unity and indivisibility of the nation. France does not recognize in its territory the existence of minorities with a legal status as such, but states that its position does not exclude the rights of persons belonging to minorities to enjoy, with other members of their group, their own cultural life, to profess and practise their religion or to use their own language. The Special Rapporteur regrets that France does not envisage ratifying Protocol No. 12 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms nor the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, as recommended by her predecessor.

59. The Special Rapporteur notes a large number of circulars and instructions to complement legislative provisions to combat discrimination, including in the field of criminal justice. She is pleased to learn about the establishment of a ministerial body responsible for designing, coordinating and facilitating the Government's policies on combating racism and anti-Semitism. She further welcomes the fact that in 2015 a national plan to combat racism and anti-Semitism was launched.

60. In the field of education, the Act on Orientation and Programming for the Rebuilding of the Schools of the Republic is intended to reaffirm the need to promote inclusive schools for all pupils with special needs. Given the lack of an "ethnic approach", there is no distinction between Roma and non-Roma children, but the former benefit from inclusive arrangements in place for newly arrived pupils

who do not speak French. The Special Rapporteur recalls her predecessor's recommendation that special measures should be adopted to guarantee the right to education in mainstream schools for children from Gypsy or Traveller families and welcomes the implementation of specific educational measures for children from Traveller communities referred to by the State. Furthermore, France provided information on the teaching of foreign and regional languages at school, which was enhanced with the passing of the law in 2013.

F. Greece

61. Greece informed the Special Rapporteur that, with respect to the recommendation that the Government comply with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, which found that associations should be allowed to use the words "Macedonian" or "Turkish" in their names and freely express their ethnic identities, a special structure responsible for the execution of the judgments has been established within the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights. The Special Rapporteur welcomes this development and encourages Greece to fully implement those judgments.

62. With regard to religious minorities, Greece reported that Act No. 4115/2013 enhances the status of religious preachers, who are employed by the civil service and enjoy all the social security benefits to which they are entitled. It was also noted that a special university entrance quota was introduced for members of the Muslim minority who wish to become teachers. The implementation of Act No. 4301/2014, which pertains to the organization of the legal form of religious communities and their organizations in Greece, has permitted some religious communities to be automatically granted the status of religious or ecclesiastical legal persons without having to follow formal legal procedures.

63. In relation to the recommendations made regarding Roma populations, the Special Rapporteur was informed that, since 2014, measures have been put in place through a national strategy for Roma social inclusion, covering the period 2014-2020, including the establishment of some 300 local community centres and a special secretariat for Roma within the Ministry of Labour in charge of monitoring the national strategy and regional strategies. The Special Rapporteur welcomes such measures, while recalling that her predecessor had noted that significant problems of implementation existed at the local level; therefore, she encourages Greece to ensure the implementation of the measures contained in the National Strategy at the local level.

64. The Special Rapporteur congratulates Greece on the establishment of an observatory on gender equality, which in 2012 designed and implemented a project on gender mainstreaming in Greek municipalities, with an emphasis on women belonging to socially vulnerable groups. The establishment of such a body is in line with the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, voiced by the former Independent Expert, "to take effective measures to eliminate discrimination against minority women, including awareness-raising programmes, to sensitize public opinion at large, and particularly the police, on the issue of minority women".

G. Hungary

65. The Special Rapporteur thanks Hungary for its extensive response detailing measures and programmes adopted since the visit of the Independent Expert in 2006. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the establishment, in 2011, of the Roma

Coordination Council, a body comprising 29 members, including Roma representatives, which is tasked with, inter alia, overseeing the implementation of the framework agreement between the Government and the National Roma Self-Government. She also welcomes the adoption, in 2011, of a national social inclusion strategy, which highlights among its objectives in the area of health care the improvement of access to health care for Roma communities through triannual action plans.

66. With regard to the situation of Roma women, the Special Rapporteur is pleased to learn about the implementation, in 2016, of a project to support cooperation for inclusion, which is intended to promote Roma women's civil society organizations, and hopes that similar projects are replicated in the future.

67. In the field of education, Hungary provided information about several legislative and other measures implemented to combat discrimination of Roma children at school. Hungary noted a bill submitted in October 2016 to amend the Act on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities and the Act on National Public Education, in order to put in place stronger guarantees to prevent the segregation of children in education, including based on ethnicity or nationality. It also provided detailed information on the measures adopted to change the practice of labelling young Roma children as mentally disabled without justification based on the child's intellectual capabilities and referred, among other measures, to the safeguards in place in this regard, including pedagogical assistance services.

68. In the framework of the national social inclusion strategy, developments in the areas of employment, housing and health care were presented. The project entitled "Active for work 2007-2013" aims to enhance the employability of persons in disadvantaged situations in the labour market; some 47 per cent of participants are members of the Roma community. In addition to the existing settlement programmes, it was noted that in 2015 the Government adopted a policy strategy to manage segregated housing, covering the period 2014-2020, to improve housing conditions in settlements. Several programmes were highlighted as examples of measures aimed at improving the access of Roma people to health-care services, including a Roma mother-child health programme and a programme on training Roma health guardians.

H. Rwanda

69. The Special Rapporteur took note that, contrary to her predecessor's recommendation that the Government should acknowledge the Batwa to be a distinct population group and that targeted programmes should be designed and implemented to improve their conditions, the Government does not consider any group as a distinct indigenous people. Nevertheless, Rwanda highlighted policies and programmes intended to address the socioeconomic situation of historically vulnerable groups, including the Batwa and others. The Special Rapporteur encourages Rwanda to ensure that Batwa communities benefit fully from government initiatives.

70. In relation to the recommendation of the former mandate holder that the Government should review the programme to demolish all *nyakatsi* houses to ensure that it did not have a negative impact on vulnerable individuals, families or communities, Rwanda stated that there had been what it termed a "bye-bye *nyakatsi*" campaign and that vulnerable families had been given new houses.

I. Viet Nam

71. Viet Nam provided information with regard to the population census of 2014, indicating that more than 12 million people are persons belonging to minorities (14.3 per cent of the total population). It also noted that the Constitution of 2013 recognizes that minorities have equal rights and enshrines the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as well as the right of Vietnamese citizens from ethnic minorities to political participation. Viet Nam indicated that, of the 151 laws adopted by the National Assembly over the past decade, 38 are related to ethnic minorities.

72. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the programmes aimed at ethnic minorities in the area of poverty alleviation and development that have been implemented over the past years, which have proved successful. She further welcomes the national target programme on sustainable poverty reduction for the period 2016-2020.

73. The Special Rapporteur expressed satisfaction at the reduction of the poverty rate among ethnic minority households, which is reported to have dropped from 35 per cent in 2011 to 16.8 per cent in 2015, and the reduction of the malnourishment rate among children under the age of 5 years from ethnic minorities, which has fallen to below 25 per cent. The Special Rapporteur congratulates Viet Nam for the improvements in the field of education and training for ethnic minorities, with a school enrolment rate of 95 per cent among ethnic minorities compared with the national average of 98 per cent. With respect to the preservation of minority languages, the Special Rapporteur welcomes a recent pilot project launched in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund on bilingual education in three provinces (Lao Cai, Tra Vinh and Gia Lai).

IV. Analysis of the communications sent out by the mandate holders

74. From 1 August 2005, when the mandate was established, to 30 June 2017, a period that encompasses almost the entire tenure of two mandate holders, 269 communications to Governments were sent. In 2005, only one communication was sent. Since then, there has been a fairly steady increase in the number of communications sent annually, with the highest number of communications sent in 2011.

75. The largest number of communications (132) were sent to States in the Asia-Pacific region. The Europe and Central Asia region came second, with 79 communications, followed by the Middle East and North Africa region, with 25. Countries in the Americas region received 18 communications, while the Africa region received 15.

76. Of the 269 communications sent, 262 were addressed to Governments jointly with other mandate holders. Of these joint communications, 134 were joint allegation letters and 125 were joint urgent appeals. A total of three were sent as joint so-called other letters, relating to issues of legislation or policy concern.

77. A total of seven communications were sent without other mandate holders: one allegation letter, five urgent appeals and one other letter.

78. In terms of the reasons for the communications, the largest number of communications (108) related to issues concerning religious minorities. There were also 14 cases where the issues in question related to groups that qualified both as religious and ethnic minorities. The second largest group of victims was ethnic

minorities, about whom 74 communications were sent. A total of 42 communications were sent concerning the specific situation of Roma around the world. In addition, there were 31 communications concerning human rights defenders working to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities who had suffered reprisals in connection with their human rights activities.

V. Forum on Minority Issues

79. The Forum on Minority Issues, which replaced the Working Group on Minorities, was established in 2007 pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/15 and renewed in 2012 pursuant to resolution 19/23. It is mandated to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as to provide thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the Special Rapporteur. The Forum is also intended to identify best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives to advance the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

80. The Special Rapporteur is tasked with guiding the work of the Forum, preparing its annual session and reporting on the thematic recommendations of the Forum to the Human Rights Council. The Forum meets annually in Geneva for two days of thematic discussions. On average, more than 500 participants attend, including representatives of minorities, Member States, United Nations mechanisms, regional intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations.

81. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur thus complements and enhances the work of the Forum and the Special Rapporteur has fostered the complementary and mutual reinforcement of both mechanisms throughout her tenure. Since 2013, she has devoted her annual thematic report to the General Assembly to the same topic as the session of the Forum, as a means to contribute to and inform the discussions of the Forum.

82. The Special Rapporteur emphasizes the instrumental role played by the Forum in providing a platform for dialogue and reflection on issues pertaining to minorities and producing action-oriented recommendations that can be implemented by States and other stakeholders to fulfil the rights of minorities. She notes that the participation of minorities themselves in the Forum's sessions is key to guaranteeing an inclusive and balanced discussion and serves as an example of inclusion of minorities in matters affecting them. She highlights that the views and contributions of minorities provide an invaluable assessment on the actual implementation of legislation, policies and international standards on minority rights.

83. The Special Rapporteur acknowledges the challenges facing the Forum, including limited awareness of the Forum at the regional and local levels, lack of capacity to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and financial constraints. She strongly believes that it is essential to ensure the effective continuation of the Forum and hopes that its role will become more prominent and universally recognized in the years to come.

84. During the second half of her mandate, the Special Rapporteur has sought to reflect on ways to improve debate and discussion at the Forum, with a view to making its sessions more dynamic, constructive and focused on the topic of the session. From 2017, the Forum will be organized around panel discussions guided by questions proposed by a moderator, which will facilitate the process of formulating recommendations.

85. She has also seized opportunities to raise awareness of the work of the Forum outside Geneva. In 2013, she travelled to Banjul to attend the fifty-third ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Among other activities, she held a public side event with the participation of a commissioner, Soyata Maiga, the Chair of the fifth session of the Forum. The side event was an opportunity to brief participants on the work of the mandate holder and the Forum and to share information relating to minorities in African human rights mechanisms. In 2016, while reporting to the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur convened a consultative session in New York, which served as an opportunity to discuss the draft recommendations of the Forum ahead of its session, raise awareness of its work outside Geneva and engage with relevant stakeholders in New York.

86. The Special Rapporteur considers that enhanced financial support for the Forum is needed to guarantee its long-term functioning and ensure that it can fulfil its role. She thanks Austria for its generous support since the outset, as well as Hungary and the Russian Federation for their contributions, and encourages other States to contribute financially to the Forum to ensure its sustainability and progress. Increased financial resources will also enable the Forum to consider holding meetings in the various regions so that minorities and non-governmental organizations that cannot afford to travel to Geneva will be able to contribute to the Forum's deliberations in their respective localities. The extension of the current two-day session could also be considered to allow more participants to take the floor and broaden the scope of the discussions.

87. The year 2017 marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Forum. The Special Rapporteur considers it to be an ideal opportunity to foster ownership of the Forum's agenda by minorities themselves, encourage focused and constructive participation of States and minority representatives, strengthen the engagement of other United Nations agencies in the Forum and promote more interactive dialogue and discussion during the sessions of the Forum in a respectful and constructive spirit.

VI. Research on minority issues in the second cycle of the universal periodic review process

88. The Special Rapporteur has conducted research analysing all minority-related recommendations of the second cycle of the universal periodic review process.³ The main findings are summarized in the present section. As in the previous report on the first cycle, the research is based entirely on the statistics and database of UPR Info.⁴ The Special Rapporteur notes that, at the time of writing of the present report, the recommendations made at the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review had not been made part of the overall electronic database; all the statistics and data below reflect, therefore, the outcomes of the thirteenth to twenty-fifth sessions.⁵

³ The Special Rapporteur thanks the members of the Human Rights Project at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy for their important work on this issue and the team at UPR Info for their assistance and collaboration.

⁴ Available from www.upr-info.org.

⁵ According to the Special Rapporteur's assessment, during the twenty-sixth session, 10 Member States (Haiti, Iceland, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe) received 80 recommendations regarding minorities, vulnerable groups, marginalized groups and religious groups, which will change the final statistics and charts.

89. The analysis revealed that, during the second cycle, recommendations regarding minorities accounted for 5 per cent of total recommendations, with 144 Member States issuing 1,658 recommendations to 147 Member States (there were a total of 895 minority-related recommendations in the first cycle, which constituted 4.2 per cent of the 21,353 recommendations made in total). "Minorities" was the eleventh most discussed topic out of 56 different categories in the UPR Info database. Of the total number of recommendations on minorities, 81 per cent were accepted and 19 per cent were noted.

90. Eastern European States received the most recommendations on minorities (572), followed by Western European and other States (473), Asia-Pacific States (337), African States (164) and Latin American and Caribbean States (112). Western European and other States made the most recommendations on minorities (459), followed by Asia-Pacific States (367), Latin American and Caribbean States (281), Eastern European States (266), African States (261) and the observers (Holy See and State of Palestine) (24).

91. The top five regional organizations receiving the most minority-related recommendations were the European Union (679), the International Organization of la Francophonie (366), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (271), the Commonwealth secretariat (205) and the African Union (163). The top five regional organizations making the most minority-related recommendations were the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (419), the European Union (393), the International Organization of la Francophonie (361), the Organization of American States (357) and the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (318).

92. The top 10 Member States receiving the largest number of minority-related recommendations were Myanmar (69), Slovakia (58), Slovenia (50), Bulgaria (44), Czechia (43), Romania (41), Bosnia and Herzegovina (40), France (39), Sweden (39) and Greece (37). The top 10 Member States making the highest number of minority-related recommendations were the Islamic Republic of Iran (42), the Russian Federation (39), Canada (39), Austria (38), Argentina (37), the United States of America (37), Malaysia (36), Australia (33), Spain (30) and China (30).

93. About 21 per cent of all minority recommendations referred to the situation of Roma, 7 per cent referred to Afro- and African descendants and 5 per cent to Muslims. Other significant groups included Rohingya, Bedouins, Arabs, Christians, Baha'is, Sinti, Dalits and Jewish communities.

94. Roma were the most frequently cited minority group in the first cycle of the universal periodic review process. There were 364 recommendations addressing their situation: 259 in Eastern European States and 105 in Western European and Other States. Some 7 per cent of them were noted (25), while the rest were accepted. The top five Member States receiving the most recommendations were Slovakia (44), Czechia (32), Romania (32), Slovenia (28) and Hungary (27). Afro- and African descendants were the second most referenced minority group within the second cycle. A total of 110 recommendations mentioned them. All regions, aside from African States, received recommendations. Member States made 86 recommendations regarding Muslims. All regions except Latin American and Caribbean States received recommendations. Western European and other States received the largest percentage of recommendations (62), followed by Asia-Pacific States (16) and Eastern European States (7). Rohingya were mentioned in 31 recommendations, the majority to Myanmar (26) and the rest to Bangladesh (5). Myanmar noted all 26 recommendations, while Bangladesh accepted 3 recommendations and noted 2. There were 12 recommendations that mentioned Bedouins, 11 addressed to Israel and 1 to the Niger. Israel noted 2 and the rest were

accepted. Arab populations were mentioned in 12 recommendations to 4 countries: Israel (8), Islamic Republic of Iran (2), France (1) and the United States (1). The Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States noted the recommendations; the rest were accepted. Christians were mentioned in 11 recommendations to 9 countries: Islamic Republic of Iran (2), Pakistan (2), the Central African Republic (1), China (1), Indonesia (1), Israel (1), Nigeria (1), Turkmenistan (1) and Uzbekistan (1). A total of 5 were noted (by China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Uzbekistan) and 6 were accepted. Of the 11 recommendations that mentioned the Baha'is, 10 were to the Islamic Republic of Iran and 1 was to Indonesia. Indonesia accepted the recommendation, while Iran noted all of them.

95. There were 15 recommendations in the second cycle (compared with 41 in the first cycle) that referred to treaty bodies and minorities: 12 were accepted and 3 noted. There were 13 recommendations referring to special procedures and minorities: 7 of them were accepted and 6 noted. A total of 5 referred to the Independent Expert or the Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

96. With respect to areas of concern contained in the recommendations, the analysis revealed 33 main thematic areas: access, birth registration, citizenship, criminal justice, culture, discrimination, education, employment, equality, ethnicity, hate or hatred, health or health care, housing, human rights, intolerance or xenophobia, judicial matters, land rights, language-related matters, legislation and the law, media, nationality-related matters, participation, police, poverty, protection, racism, religion or belief, segregation, social inclusion, torture, training, violence and water and sanitation.

VII. Conclusions

97. The year 2017 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. The anniversary constitutes a reminder and a crucial opportunity for States to strengthen their respective legislation on minority rights protection to ensure that it is fully in line with the Declaration. The Special Rapporteur recalls the four pillars of minority rights protection that should be reflected in those laws: first, the protection of a minority's survival by combating violence against its members and preventing genocide; second, the protection and promotion of the cultural identity of minority groups and their right to enjoy their collective identity and to reject forced assimilation; third, the guarantee of the right to non-discrimination and equality, including ending structural or systemic discrimination and the promotion of affirmative action, when required; and fourth, the right of minorities to effective participation in public life and in decisions that affect them. She stresses that non-discrimination clauses, which provide for equal treatment for all members of society, without the aforementioned additional guarantees, have often proved insufficient for the effective protection of disadvantaged minorities.

98. The United Nations in general should advocate minority rights protection more strongly at both the national and regional levels, with a view to ensuring that States strengthen their legal, policy and institutional frameworks and that regional anti-discrimination and minority rights standards and mechanisms are put in place for the protection and promotion of minority rights, respectively.

99. Equally, the United Nations should ensure that the composition of its staff in all offices and entities, in particular in the field, reflects the national, ethnic and religious make-up of the societies in which they operate.

100. Existing mechanisms and platforms for minorities within the United Nations system should be strengthened, including the Forum on Minority Issues. The Forum plays a pivotal role as a unique and global platform to facilitate dialogue and address relevant issues pertaining to minorities. It should be provided with the resources necessary to implement its mandate fully. Consideration should be given to raising the Forum's profile at the regional and international levels, following up the implementation of its recommendations, fostering ownership of the Forum's agenda by minorities and promoting more interactive dialogue and discussion during the Forum's sessions.

101. It is important for the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities to update the Human Rights Council regularly on its work. The United Nations should also consider appointing a high-level official on minority issues within the Secretariat and establishing senior positions within departments and agencies to look into issues of minority rights protection, diversity management and safeguarding pluralistic societies. The designation of minority focal points in all United Nations field offices would be another great step forward.





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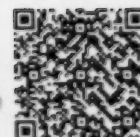
Implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/163. The focus of the report is the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and the contribution of family policies to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the areas of the reduction of poverty and social exclusion, work-family balance and gender equality, and the promotion of social integration and intergenerational solidarity.

* A/72/150.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/163, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes. In the resolution, Governments were encouraged to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues.

2. In addition, the General Assembly, in that resolution, invited Member States to invest in a variety of family-oriented policies and programmes, as important tools for, *inter alia*, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. In the present report, the importance of investing in family policies and programmes, as tools to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, is highlighted, with particular emphasis on the issues noted above. Information is also provided on initiatives at the national and regional levels presented by Member States at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly and the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development. The activities of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in support of the implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes are noted, and conclusions and recommendations are put forward.

II. Family policies in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A. Reducing poverty, social exclusion and inequality

4. Poverty disrupts and endangers family functioning, including family activities and interactions, such as cognitive engagement with children, physical health habits, intrafamily relationships and social connectedness. When families live in poverty, financial and physical security is scarce and access to basic resources is limited. As a result, family relationships suffer and children grow up in unstable environments. Parents who live in poverty may be at a higher risk of domestic violence and substance addictions. Furthermore, when parents are deprived of their basic needs, they may fail to support their children and resort to less effective, coercive, punitive or inconsistent parenting, while their children may be at a higher risk of experiencing problems in their later educational, professional and personal development.¹

5. In developed countries, poverty is mostly associated with specific family characteristics, such as single parenthood, migration status or the parents' educational level. In developing countries, poverty can, to a large extent, be attributed to structural factors, including informal types of employment with no risk-averting mechanisms for protecting workers in the event of poor health or accidents, and no pension benefits to protect them in old age.²

¹ See Zitha Mokomane, "Family-oriented policies for poverty and hunger reduction in developing countries and indicators of progress", paper prepared for the expert group meeting on family policies and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in New York on 12 and 13 May 2016. Materials from the meeting are available from www.un.org/development/desa/family/meetings-events/family-policies-and-the-2030-sustainable-development-agenda.html.

² Ibid.

6. Poverty continues to be a gendered phenomenon, and the gender disparities in poverty are rooted in unequal access to economic resources and productive assets. In many developing countries, women still have limited access to land and employment. Statutory and customary laws restrict the access of women to productive resources and their control over household economic resources. Working-age women in developing and developed countries alike are more likely to be poorer than men when they have dependent children. Similarly, older women, especially those living alone, are more likely to be poor than men.³ Poverty in general and child poverty in particular refers to not only monetary deprivation but also disadvantages in access to nutrition, primary health care and education. Undernourishment in childhood can lead to stunting. A lack of access to primary health care may result in death from preventable causes. Limited access to high-quality education reduces prospects for future gainful employment.

7. Studies on the multidimensional poverty of children in sub-Saharan Africa indicate that 247 million of a total of 368 million children under the age of 18 experience 2 to 5 deprivations that threaten their survival and development.⁴ Furthermore, according to current trends, 9 out of 10 children living in extreme poverty⁵ will live in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, millions of children who live above the extreme poverty threshold experience deprivations in other dimensions of their lives. Even in countries of the European Union, children are at a higher risk of monetary poverty than adults, and, in the 41 most affluent countries, nearly 77 million children lived in relative poverty in 2014.⁶

8. In view of these continuing challenges and negative trends, family-centred interventions with a focus on the multidimensional aspects of poverty are key in the fight against poverty and can help to achieve particular targets of Sustainable Development Goal 1. First and foremost, it is vital to create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels on the basis of pro-poor, pro-children and gender-sensitive development strategies. In particular, family policies directed at the provision of social protection and access to basic services have had the largest impact on family poverty reduction. Non-contributory old-age pensions have had a similar impact.

9. While universal social protection systems covering all citizens are important for building public support and solidarity, additional targeted benefits should be offered to the most vulnerable families to reduce inequalities. The provision of childcare also plays a major role in poverty reduction by enabling women to be fully employed.⁷

10. In many countries, the main forms of family support include birth grants, maternity benefits and child and childcare allowances. Additional benefits are granted for large and single-parent families and families with children with disabilities.

11. In the European Union, a child allowance is considered a right of the child and depends only on the age of the child and its disability status, not the income of the

³ *The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.15.XVII.8), chap. 8. Available from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/worldswomen.html>.

⁴ Multidimensional child deprivation is defined as the non-fulfilment of children's rights in the main dimensions of survival, development, protection and participation. The analysis for sub-Saharan Africa is based on five dimensions: health, nutrition, water, sanitation and housing for children under 5; and education, information, water, sanitation and housing for children aged 5 to 17. See www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/brief7_multidimensional_child_deprivation_monetary_poverty_ssa_layout.pdf.

⁵ Extreme poverty is defined for the purposes of the present report as living on less than \$1.90 a day.

⁶ See United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2016: A Fair Chance for Every Child* (New York, June 2016).

⁷ See the report of the expert group meeting held in New York on 12 and 13 May 2016, "Family policies and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda".

family. The general consensus is that a universal monetary benefit to cover the minimum cost of raising a child should be provided. Additional targeted allowances are usually offered for people in vulnerable situations. It is also important to recognize that families may have other vulnerable members, such as adult children with disabilities, under their care. Consequently, a life-course approach recognizing the needs of all family members is needed.⁸

12. Low-quality jobs and vulnerable employment contribute to persistent poverty and inequality. Globally, 1.5 billion people are in vulnerable employment, accounting for more than 46 per cent of total employment. In Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, more than 70 per cent of workers are in vulnerable employment. Besides having limited access to contributory social protection schemes, workers in vulnerable employment might suffer from low productivity and earnings. There are also major gender gaps in job quality, and women face a 25 to 35 per cent higher risk of being in vulnerable employment than men in certain countries in Northern Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab States.⁹

13. A new approach to social provision, entailing a transition from social assistance to social activation and focusing mostly on stimulating labour potential, has been adopted in some countries. For instance, in the Russian Federation, under the Social Support of Citizens programme, cash payments are awarded for participation in specific activities. The programme's goal is to reduce poverty among low-income families willing to participate in assisted job searches, public works, vocational training and self-employment. Approximately 40 per cent of low-income families with children came out of poverty as a result of the programme. Similarly, in Kazakhstan, the Government developed a social protection programme based on the principle of "mutual obligations" for supporting private farming and self-employment.¹⁰

14. Access to decent employment and the extension of social protection floors to all are the most effective ways to ensure that those living below the poverty line can "lift themselves and their families above any given poverty threshold" and thus attain Sustainable Development Goal 1.¹¹ Investing more in decent jobs and ensuring work-family balance for working families are also indispensable in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

B. Promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

15. Work-family conflict is on the rise and is becoming a global phenomenon in developed and developing countries alike. Growing work demands combined with job insecurity and a lack of policies to promote work-family balance have resulted in growing tensions between work and family life. The work-family pressures have been harder on women, who are still primarily responsible for the care of not only children but also often older persons or those with disabilities in families.¹²

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ See International Labour Organization (ILO), *World Employment Social Outlook: Trends 2016* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2016).

¹⁰ See Esuna Dugarova, "Implementing Sustainable Development Goal 1: poverty eradication through family support policies and social protection measures in transition countries", paper prepared for the expert group meeting held in New York on 12 and 13 May 2016.

¹¹ ILO, *World Employment Social Outlook*, p. 24.

¹² See Bahira Sherif Trask, "Improving health and well-being by promoting gender equality and empowerment: the need for a family-centred implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals 1-5", paper prepared for the expert group meeting held in New York on 12 and 13 May 2016.

16. Unpaid house- and care work is carried out disproportionately by women across the world. Such unequal distribution gives rise to tensions between work and family life, negatively affecting the well-being of all family members. The absence or inadequate level of parental leave, affordable childcare and flexible working arrangements has many negative consequences. One of them is lower female labour participation, as women tend to opt out of the labour market to assume family responsibilities. The conflict between work and family has also been associated with a worse quality of relations between spouses and a higher risk of family dysfunction.¹³

17. Decent employment must ensure work-family balance, which is the top work-related issue for working parents. There is a growing recognition that a job that prevents workers from balancing their work commitments with the need to care for their family members is not a decent job. Moreover, the unresolved tensions between care and work represent a major concern for women and affect their access to good-quality work.¹⁴

18. The European Parliament identified work-family balance as a top area in need of improvement in the European Union, noting that women devote nearly one-fifth of their free time to caregiving and household responsibilities, whereas men devote less than a tenth of their free time contributing to those activities. As a result of their caring obligations, the hourly earnings of women are on average 16.7 per cent lower and their pensions 40.2 per cent lower than those of men.¹⁵

19. It is important to note that work-family conflict may disproportionately affect parents in low-income families, as the demands for care of family members may restrict the range of jobs available to them. In fact, research demonstrates that young women may assume lower-paid jobs, often in the informal economy, to be able to cope with family responsibilities. Consequently, women are overrepresented in low-wage jobs. For example, in the United States of America, women make up two thirds of the nearly 20 million workers in the low-wage workforce, although they make up less than half of all workers.¹⁶ Moreover, some employers discriminate against women with family responsibilities, and full-time working mothers typically earn only 69 per cent of what fathers earn.¹⁷

20. The consequences of even temporarily opting out of the labour market owing to caregiving responsibilities extend later in the lives of women. For instance, in Latin America, 52 per cent of women reported that seeking more time with their families was the main reason why they gave up their jobs mid-career or even when they had reached senior levels.¹⁸ Such choices have consequences when women get older. As social security systems are largely connected to remunerated employment, older women with work interruptions, lower salaries and lower levels of contributions are at a higher risk of falling into poverty.

21. In view of the above, ensuring work-family balance is important for achieving greater gender equality. Despite the commitments and efforts made by many Governments to establish policies and programmes to promote gender equality, inequality and imbalances continue. In parts of the developing world, many girls and women still do not have access to economic, educational and nutritional

¹³ See Mokomane, "Family-oriented policies".

¹⁴ ILO, *Women at Work: Trends 2016* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2016), p. 66.

¹⁵ Data as at 2014. See www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170306STO65206/gender-balance-five-areas-for-improvement.

¹⁶ National Women's Law Center, "Underpaid and overloaded: women in low-wage jobs", 2014, p. 1. Available from www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/final_nwlc_lowwagereport2014.pdf.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 32.

¹⁸ See ILO, *Women at Work*.

resources. They are thus more vulnerable to poverty, hunger and health problems. The situation persists because of the unequal relationship between men and women entrenched in cultural ideas and social relationships.¹⁹

22. Such limited success of gender empowerment efforts is also linked to persistent discrimination, violence and certain cultural norms. Furthermore, the limited success of women-oriented policies and programmes could be partially linked to the lack of a family perspective in overall gender equality efforts. The contemporary academic and policy orientation targets policies and programmes principally at the individual level. Such an approach obscures the fact that individuals do not live in a vacuum but have family relationships. In particular, decisions about many aspects of the lives of women and girls are taken by families. The family itself may support or be detrimental to the lives of girls and women.²⁰

23. It is therefore critical to take into account the family dimensions that may constrain or promote the empowerment of women, adopt a family perspective accompanied by a gender equality perspective and focus on promoting family decisions that improve the health and education prospects of girls and women.

24. Childcare remains socially stratified, and children from low-income families have more limited opportunities to receive formal childcare than children from higher-income families. Although there is ample evidence demonstrating that investing in young children through high-quality childcare results in higher educational achievement, better health, improved job opportunities and even higher earnings later in life, so far very few countries see childcare as a public good.

25. Besides the human development benefits, promoting access to childcare services pays better economic returns in terms of higher tax revenues, reduced social spending and overall stronger public budgets. It also contributes to improved child development, leading to better labour market outputs and reduced intergenerational transmission of inequality.²¹

26. Childcare provision may be financed from tax revenues or social insurance through subsidies to care providers or by offering direct services and providing subsidies to parents. In some countries, such as France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the two strategies are combined.²²

27. Some Governments offer financial support to families with children, sometimes in the form of tax breaks, and it is up to the families to choose the service or facility they prefer. In the Netherlands, for instance, parents, employers and the Government each cover one third of the cost of formal childcare for preschool and school-age children up to the age of 13, with additional Government contributions for low-income families. Such an arrangement makes childcare more accessible to families of all incomes.

28. Investing in childcare is essential for promoting maternal employment, as it helps to empower women and supports their access to formal jobs. Furthermore, higher public spending on policies to promote work-family balance is associated with higher female employment-to-population ratios.²³

¹⁹ See Trask, "Improving health and well-being by promoting gender equality and empowerment".

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ See James J. Heckman and Lakshmi K. Raut, "Intergenerational long-term effects of preschool: structural estimates from a discrete dynamic programming model", discussion paper No. 7415, Bonn, Germany, Institute for the Study of Labour, May 2013.

²² See ILO, *Women at Work*.

²³ See Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Family Database. Available from www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm.

29. The expansion of family leave provisions, especially maternity protection for all women, is effective if carried out in line with international labour standards, including the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Of the 185 countries for which data were available, 102 countries granted at least 14 weeks of maternity leave and, of the 167 countries that provided maternity leave cash benefits, 77 provided at least two thirds of the woman's prior earnings for the 14 weeks, in accordance with the ILO Convention.

30. The provision of paternal leave is often considered to be a gender-transformative leave policy, since it has the great potential to promote a more equal distribution of unpaid household and care responsibilities between women and men. Paternal leave benefits the child and results in higher job and home-life satisfaction for men and improved health and labour market outcomes for mothers.²⁴ Fathers who take paternal leave immediately after the birth of their children are more involved with their children later in life, which in turn contributes to gender equality in the home.

31. Although the number of countries offering paternal leave is increasing, such leave, despite its numerous benefits, is available in only 94 of the 170 countries with available data and ranges from 1 to 30 days. Nine countries offer 30 days, including 8 with paid leave, while 42 countries offer from 1 to 6 days of paternal leave, including 37 with paid leave. Recent research in 21 European countries showed that men were more likely to take leave when it was non-transferable and fully, or nearly fully, paid.²⁵

32. Some countries, such as Belgium, Germany and Norway, offer flexibility as to when parental leave may be taken. Parents have the option to take the leave in one block immediately after the birth of the child or as time off from work until the child reaches school age. The leave can be taken on a full- or part-time basis. In the Russian Federation, parental leave benefits can be transferred to grandparents or other caregivers. In some countries, parental leave benefits are used to offset childcare costs and encourage women to return to work. In Slovakia, parents are able to receive the full parental leave benefit no matter how long they have worked or what their level of earnings is. They may also exchange the parental leave benefit for a childcare benefit to partially cover childcare costs provided by an institution or a registered childcare.²⁶

33. Another aspect of work-family balance is workplace flexibility, which may include telecommuting, a variety of accommodating schedules, such as flexitime and a compressed workweek, and flexible use of annual leave and part-time work. Work flexibility is beneficial for both employees and employers, as it has been found to reduce stress and diminish absenteeism and employee turnover.²⁷

34. In some countries, workers are legally entitled to request flexible work schedules as well as teleworking.²⁸ In Denmark and the Netherlands, flexible work arrangements are accessible to all workers, irrespective of their sex and family status, which reduces the penalty associated with being a worker with family

²⁴ See Ruti Levitov and others, "State of the world's fathers report: executive summary", Washington, D.C., Promundo, Rutgers, Save the Children, Sonke Gender Justice and the MenEngage Alliance, 2015.

²⁵ ILO, *Women at Work*, figure 37.

²⁶ See Bahira Sherif Trank, "Alleviating the stress on working families: promoting family-friendly workplace policies", *National Council on Family Relations Policy Brief*, vol. 2, issue 1 (January 2017).

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Argentina, Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Portugal.

responsibilities. In Latin America, collective bargaining has been essential for achieving family-friendly working schemes.²⁹

35. In some countries, social cooperatives and enterprises provide educational and health services through community centres for children and older persons, health-care facilities and home care. In Italy, the organization Consorzio Pan — Servizi per l'infanzia brings together social enterprises and a bank to create high-quality yet affordable childcare services. The organization's cooperative approach involves families, provides on-the-job training and offers flexible schedules for working parents, some of whom are members of the cooperative.³⁰

36. In addition to caring for their children, more and more working families are faced with the new responsibility of caring for their older parents for longer. For example, in the United Kingdom, one in nine people in the workforce combine paid work with unpaid care for a frail family member who is older or ill or a person with a disability. Although long-term care (i.e. public or private support services provided to older persons with limited self-care ability owing to physical or mental conditions) is a growing concern for families, it is rarely included in work-family balance considerations.³¹

37. With extended families growing smaller as a result of rapid urbanization and demographic trends, long-term care is bound to increase in importance. Nevertheless, the majority of countries do not provide any legal protection for long-term care, and more than 48 per cent of the population of persons aged 65 and over in the 46 countries with information available are not covered by any national legislation. Another 46.3 per cent are largely excluded because of restrictive means-testing regulations covering only the most vulnerable. ILO estimates a global shortage of 13.6 million formal long-term care workers, with the highest deficits in Asia and the Pacific.³² Investments in the training of long-term care workers and better coordination between various health- and social-care schemes and systems are therefore needed.³³

38. In some countries, family-friendly companies are officially recognized. For instance, in the Republic of Korea, under the Best Family-Friendly Management programme, companies that promote work-family balance, including through the proper implementation of leave entitlements and flexible workplace arrangements, are officially certified by the Government and enjoy a wide range of benefits, such as lower interest rates for bank loans. From 2008 to 2015, the number of certified companies grew from 14 to 956.³⁴

C. Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity

39. By 2030, two thirds of the global population will be living in cities. The fast pace of urbanization and demographic changes is challenging for Governments, societies, families and individuals. Such changes are especially challenging for families with older persons and persons with disabilities. Cities offer opportunities but often cannot keep up with the inflows of people from rural areas and provide adequate housing and other services.

²⁹ See ILO, *Women at Work*.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ See OECD, "Korea's work-life balance policies for sustainable growth", 2015. Available from www.oecd.org/korea/korea-work-life-balance-policies.htm.

40. In some Western countries, including the United States, the number of multigenerational households (defined as households that consist of at least two adult generations or households with a skipped generation, such as a grandchild living with a grandparent) is on the rise.³⁵ Experts note that the number would be higher if not for zoning and building codes that favour single-family homes.³⁶

41. Urban planning that takes into account the needs of different generations and facilitates interactions between generations is indispensable for intergenerational solidarity. The family-friendly cities of tomorrow should be accessible to all generations and people with different needs. In order to make cities truly liveable and friendly to all generations, public spaces where people of different ages can meet and interact are needed. Policies and programmes developed at the family, community and national levels, ranging from specific legislative measures, tax incentives and community programmes that promote multigenerational living arrangements to investments in shared intergenerational sites and other initiatives supporting interactions between generations, are key in this regard.

42. Some Governments support policies to promote intergenerational living arrangements. In Singapore, couples or single persons living in governmental flats in the same town or estate as or within a short distance from their parents' residence are eligible for so-called proximity housing grants. Thousands of couples or single persons have taken advantage of that grant and other types of grants, such as the newly-wed grant. As a result, families have greater chances of living together and at a lower cost. The Government of Germany funds 550 multigenerational community houses on an annual basis. Such community housing has a common space, such as a garden, laundry room, café or playroom, saving on costs and promoting intergenerational communication at the same time.³⁷

43. Family-friendly policies at the municipal level that support intergenerational interactions make cities more liveable. An example of such a policy is the Age-Friendly D.C. strategic plan of Washington, D.C., for 2012-2017, which was designed with guidance from the World Health Organization and covers 10 areas, including intergenerational gardening, community building and intergenerational housing arrangements.³⁸ The plan promotes volunteerism and information and communications technology training for older persons.³⁹

44. As university students around the world face a shortage of accommodation, some European countries, such as France, the Netherlands and Spain, have successfully launched special initiatives to reduce the burden of housing by opening spare rooms in retirement houses to young students. So-called cohabitation programmes are usually offered at a comparably reasonable price and result in socialization between the different generations living under the same roof.⁴⁰

³⁵ In a study carried out in 2014 by the Pew Research Centre, it was indicated that 18 per cent of the population of the United States lived in a multigenerational household, up from about 15 per cent in 2000.

³⁶ See Chris Kirkham, "Hurdles to multigenerational living: kitchens and visible second entrances", *Wall Street Journal*, 14 March 2016.

³⁷ Germany, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, "What is a multigenerational house?", Available from www.mehrgenerationenhaus.de/mehrgenerationenhaus/was-ist-ein-mehrgenerationenhaus/.

³⁸ For example, the first Generations of Hope community, Genesis, opened in November 2015. In Genesis, which consists of 27 apartments, young mothers transitioning out of foster care, persons over the age of 50 and families interested in living in a supported community live together.

³⁹ See the Age-Friendly D.C. 2016 progress report. Available from https://agefriendly.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/agefriendly/page_content/attachments/AFDC-2016-ProgressReport-508-1.3-2.pdf.

⁴⁰ See Marcus Roberts, "Intergenerational living at retirement homes", *Mercatornet*, 16 April 2015. Available from www.mercatornet.com/demography/view/15953.

45. Many civil society organizations support intergenerational initiatives. Generations United, which is based in the United States, has established an awards programme to recognize vibrant, healthy intergenerational communities that effectively engage, serve and honour all generations as they advance policies and practices stimulating collaboration. Since 2012, 24 extraordinary communities have been recognized. In 2016, the city of Milwaukee won the award for its initiative spanning more than three decades and including buddy⁴¹ and storytelling programmes that bring together university students and older persons in the community.

46. Another example of urban planning that takes into account the needs of young children are playgrounds for all ages, where children, parents and grandparents can interact. They are especially important for children in refugee camps, where living conditions are precarious. In this context, through the Playgrounds for Peace project run by the Middle East Children's Alliance, 13 playgrounds are facilitated in Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.⁴² Catalytic Action, a non-governmental organization based in the United Kingdom, completed the *Ibtasem* project to build new playgrounds for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon in 2015 and 2016.⁴³ In both projects, local children, parents, teachers and professionals in the areas of child education, design and municipal governance were invited to participate in the process.

47. Involved parenting and grandparenting are essential to the promotion of healthy intergenerational relations. Positive parenting, which implies providing guidance and support for children in a friendly family atmosphere, rather than using authoritarian methods and punitive measures, has been supported in many countries.⁴⁴

48. Positive parenting prevents violence and strengthens family resilience. The Triple P — Positive Parenting Programme is a parenting and family support programme established by the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland, Australia. The programme is designed to prevent and treat behavioural and emotional problems in children and adolescents. It draws on social learning, cognitive behavioural and developmental theories and aims to develop positive relationships, attitudes and conduct. It equips parents with the skills to manage family issues on their own. The programme has received many positive evaluations. For example, in a 15-year follow-up of Triple P methods in Western Australia, it was found that the programme had contributed to long-term improvements in literacy and numeracy for primary school children and better attendance for high school children.⁴⁵

49. Some countries have adopted national plans on positive parenting. In South Africa, the Integrated Programme of Action on Violence against Women and Children (2013-2018) seeks to improve the capacity of families to protect children from abuse through positive parenting courses.⁴⁶ In Malta, under the National Strategic Policy for Positive Parenting 2016-2024, childcare services are offered to parents, such as antenatal care and free nutrition for families in need. Professional services are used to report and identify family difficulties and seek solutions.

⁴¹ See <http://gu.org/OURWORK/Programs/BestIntergenerationalCommunitiesAwards.aspx>.

⁴² See www.mecaforpeace.org/projects/playgrounds.

⁴³ See www.catalyticaction.org/all-project-list/fursa-playground/.

⁴⁴ See also Robert E. Larzelere and others, "Children and parents deserve better parental discipline research: critiquing the evidence for exclusively 'positive' parenting", *Marriage and Family Review*, vol. 53, issue 1 (2017). Available from www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01494929.2016.1145613.

⁴⁵ More information is available from www.triplep-parenting.com.

⁴⁶ See Chandré Gould and Catherine L. Ward, *Positive Parenting in South Africa*, policy brief No. 77 (Institute for Security Studies, 2015).

50. Grandparents are often relied upon to provide childcare, especially in countries where formal childcare is scarce. In southern Europe, twice as many grandparents care for their grandchildren as in the Nordic countries. In China, grandparents are often the only providers of childcare for fully employed parents. In Shanghai, as many as 90 per cent of young children are cared for by at least one grandparent.⁴⁷

51. Research indicates that care provided by grandparents is beneficial for both grandparents and grandchildren. For instance, grandparents who raise grandchildren on average live longer and are physically and mentally healthier than grandparents who do not provide childcare and have positive self-recognition.⁴⁸ It should, however, be noted that extensive long hours of involvement in primary care by grandparents may have a negative effect on the behaviour of grandchildren and the depression rates of grandparents.⁴⁹

52. It is widely acknowledged that volunteerism offers valuable experiences to every generation and provides opportunities to create stronger intergenerational links in communities. Children with elder mentors are less likely to use drugs and be absent from school and are more likely to enrol in college. A campaign in the United States, launched in 2015, had recruited more than 3,500 senior mentors by 2016. Through the campaign, senior citizens help children with extracurricular activities in school, teach community history and help with research.

53. According to United Nations Volunteers, youth volunteerism can build intergenerational cooperation, increases respect for community on the part of young people and creates innovative cross-generational, demographic solutions.⁵⁰ Youth and basic social services are among the five key areas within the United Nations Volunteers strategic framework 2014-2017, the aim of which is to increase United Nations volunteers to 10,000 by the end of 2017.

54. In the United States, community service is often a prerequisite to high school graduation. The content and requirements of the service vary from state to state, from providing services that benefit older persons or elementary school children to improving local facilities.⁵¹ In Jiangsu Province, China, under the "senior citizen support bank" scheme, younger people register to volunteer care service for senior citizens in local communities and the hours spent volunteering are recorded to be paid back when the volunteers grow older. By 2015, 2,000 volunteer hours had been accumulated by people aged from 19 to 72.⁵²

55. The integration of immigrant families remains challenging in many countries. Although the intended goal of immigration policies may be social integration, particular policies can result in empowering certain family members, specific generations or entire families. Policies favouring the family as a unit and supporting

⁴⁷ See ILO, *Women at Work*.

⁴⁸ See Sonja Hilbrand and others, "Caregiving within and beyond the family is associated with lower mortality for the caregiver: a prospective study", *Evolution and Human Behavior*, vol. 38, issue 3 (May 2017); Matthew Kaplan, Mariano Sanchez and Jaco Hoffman, "Intergenerational approaches for sustaining individual health and well-being", in *Intergenerational Pathways to a Sustainable Society* (Cham, Switzerland, Springer, 2016).

⁴⁹ See Ann Buchanan and Anna Rotkirch, *Grandfathers: Global Perspectives*, Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

⁵⁰ See United Nations Development Programme, "United Nations Volunteers youth volunteering strategy 2014-2017", 23 August 2013.

⁵¹ See Donna St. George, "High school seniors in mad scramble to finish community service", *Washington Post*, 5 April 2015; Diane Loup, "Community service: mandatory or voluntary?", *School K-12*, paper 9 (2000), available from <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=sleek12>.

⁵² See Wang Xin and Cang Wei, "Volunteers pilot care 'bank' for elderly", *China Daily*, 4 August 2015.

intergenerational connections are more likely to tackle a number of challenges, such as social exclusion and poverty, often experienced by refugees. Diverse family backgrounds and the internal attributes of the families, such as cultural customs, values and a sense of filial duty, remain strong determinants of intergenerational relationships in a new environment.⁵³ The support provided by the host country in terms of access to education, health care and employment further enhances the social integration of migrant families.

56. Family reunification policies are essential for all migrants, in particular those leaving zones of conflict. In the United Kingdom, once a migrant has obtained refugee status or is eligible for humanitarian protection from the Government, he or she is granted legal permission to bring his or her spouse or child under the age of 18.⁵⁴ The focus is on children's rights in Norway, where a family that has been denied asylum can nevertheless obtain residency status when a child is proved to have a Norwegian identity.⁵⁵

57. In the United States, a two-generation approach supporting parents and children is usually adopted in social programmes for immigrant families. For instance, English-as-a-second-language classes and the Family Literacy and Even Start programmes have helped hundreds of thousands of immigrant parents and children to improve their English language skills. Such programmes provide the first encounter of immigrant parents with local government and community services and help them to support their children's early learning and kindergarten readiness.⁵⁶

58. Among the regional initiatives for raising awareness of the plight of refugee families was the conference on the impact of wars and conflicts on Arab families organized by the Doha International Family Institute and held on 17 and 18 October 2016 in Doha. The conference provided a platform for researchers and policymakers to discuss topics relating to family formation and breakdown during and post wars and conflicts, the social and economic dimensions and consequences of conflicts, including the gender dimensions, and the experience of many stakeholders helping to mitigate the effects of conflict on Arab families.⁵⁷

III. Implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes

A. General Assembly

59. During the discussions in the Third Committee at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, regional groups and Member States noted their initiatives in support of the implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes. The Group of African States emphasized that the plan of action on the African family adopted in 2004 had served as a guide to strengthen and

⁵³ See Valeria Bordone and Helga A. G. de Valk, "Intergenerational support among migrant families in Europe", *European Journal of Ageing*, vol. 13, issue 3 (September, 2016).

⁵⁴ See Melanie Gower and Terry McGuinness "The UK's refugee family reunion rules: striking the right balance?", briefing paper No. 07511 (United Kingdom, House of Commons, 28 November 2016); United Kingdom, Home Office, "Family reunion: for refugees and those with humanitarian protection", 29 July 2016.

⁵⁵ Janne Thu Iltstad and Hilde Bondevik, "Asylum-seeking children: affiliation to Norway or the 'home country'", *Nordic Journal of Human Rights*, vol. 34, issue 2 (2016).

⁵⁶ See Maki Park, Margie McHugh and Caitlin Katsiaficas, "Serving immigrant families through two-generation programs" (Washington, D.C., Migration Policy Institute, 2016). Available from www.migrationpolicy.org/research/serving-immigrant-families-through-two-generation-programs-identifying-family-needs-and.

⁵⁷ See www.difi.org.qa/annual-conference/2016-annual-conference.

improve the general welfare and life chances of families on the continent. It has been an important tool to assist Member States in strengthening their capacities to develop policies and programmes to address the challenges faced by families, including widespread poverty and the weakening of intergenerational solidarity.

60. The European Union noted its efforts to promote gender equality and reconciliation between work and family life by investing in early childhood care, granting parental leave and improving the conditions of vulnerable families. The aim of the European Platform for Investing in Children is to break the cycle of disadvantage by tackling child poverty and social exclusion. In 2016, country-specific recommendations have been made in the areas of child poverty and work-family balance. Governments also noted that the State could serve as a model employer in promoting work-family balance.

61. The Group of Friends of the Family underscored the role of the family as a natural and core unit of society, responsible for the protection of children and their socialization and overall development, allowing children to grow up in an atmosphere of love, happiness and understanding. The Group also noted that family issues should be given special attention in line with the different traditions and cultures of Member States.

62. Several Member States noted the importance of family diversity, recognizing that various forms of families exist in different social, political and economic systems. As family structures have been evolving, they have become more diverse. Consequently, as society evolves, issues of gender identity must be taken into account. The recent appointment of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity by the Human Rights Council was seen by some Member States as a landmark development.

63. Governments described their efforts to create conditions that meet the needs of families, including investing in housing for indigenous families and providing support for young families. Another priority area for Governments is supporting people with family responsibilities by promoting family-friendly working conditions and the sharing of household responsibilities by couples. Other initiatives included the creation of nurseries and centres for senior citizens, state support and education loans for children in large families, and cash transfers for vulnerable households to reduce the intergenerational transfer of poverty.

64. Some Member States emphasized the importance of raising awareness of intergenerational family ties, enhancing the capacities and welfare of the family, promoting family values, supporting families with children with disabilities, strengthening the family by improving education and access to health services for children and women, providing funding for microprojects and maintaining centres for family counselling.

B. Commission for Social Development

65. At the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, Member States recognized the importance of families and family policies for the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, especially those relating to poverty eradication, healthy lives, education and gender equality. Member States noted the role of the family in human development and the importance of supporting the family at the different life stages of its members, from early childhood to old age.

66. Family-oriented policies, including cash transfers, investments in early childhood education and assistance for various types of families, including single-

headed households and families with persons with disabilities, have been credited with overall poverty reduction, better work-family balance and improved outcomes for children.

67. The Group of Friends of the Family noted that the family was one of the best societal institutions for inequality reduction and the enhancement of the well-being of its members and thus society at large. It was a force for social cohesion and integration and the protection of vulnerable family members. The family has primary responsibility for the socialization and education of children, including teaching the value of each gender, which deserves greater recognition in line with national laws and traditions.

68. Indonesia noted the role of the family in enhancing social integration and ensuring full and productive employment and emphasized that the failure to incorporate family policies into overall social development frameworks may result in greater inequalities. It highlighted its efforts to improve family planning services and education programmes for families.

69. In the Philippines, a cash transfer programme targets the most vulnerable families by providing monetary support to meet their basic and immediate needs with a longer-term goal of breaking the intergenerational transfer of poverty. An additional component of the programme is education for disaster preparedness and the preservation of indigenous cultures. The programme has been credited with lifting 1.5 million households out of poverty. Brazil attributed its success with poverty eradication to its inclusive definition of families in targeting social protection, while China highlighted a number of family-oriented policies for rural and urban areas.

70. The Dominican Republic, speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, emphasized that the challenges faced by all families should be addressed in order to fight social exclusion. Chile stated that care responsibilities should be shared by families, the State, the market and civil society in order to promote individual welfare. In Zambia, conditional cash transfers are targeted at vulnerable families, such as female-headed households and families affected by HIV/AIDS. In addition, training in conservation agriculture to improve household food security has been introduced.

71. In Senegal, efforts are being made to promote gender equality and reduce children's vulnerability through family policies. Support for vulnerable families, especially households below the poverty line, is a priority in Ecuador, where the Government is investing in efforts to reduce maternal mortality and support childhood education. Pakistan is directing support towards families with persons with disabilities.

72. Reforms of family laws, including legislation on property rights, the rights of parents, maternity protection and the prevention of various forms of violence to ensure gender equality, were noted by Maldives, Nepal and Trinidad and Tobago. Colombia emphasized its efforts to promote new models of masculinity.

73. Qatar noted the strong connection between family policies and several Sustainable Development Goals, especially those relating to health and well-being and gender equality, and emphasized its leadership role in promoting family issues at the United Nations.

74. Trinidad and Tobago emphasized preventive and remedial programmes that promote healthy family lifestyles, including violence prevention and national parenting programmes. Cuba underscored the importance of developing public policies to promote work-family balance and encourage better sharing of family

responsibilities between men and women, preventing family violence and improving intergenerational relations.

75. Considering the traditional family to be essential for sustainable development, Belarus has sought to strengthen the role of the family and family values in society and adopted practical measures of economic support, such as investments in housing and support for large families.

76. The European Union emphasized the diversity of family forms and noted its efforts to tackle child poverty and break the cycle of disadvantage with country-specific recommendations on child well-being and work-family balance. In Poland, a new monetary grant for families and a card offering discounts for families with three or more children have been introduced and policies to promote work-family balance are seen as indispensable to respond to demographic challenges.

77. South Africa noted that no single definition of family was capable of reflecting family diversity and that responding to the needs of different kinds of families was crucial. The white paper on families, in which guidelines on how to support families are presented, has been adopted in the country.

78. The United States emphasized that diverse families, such as those led by grandparents or unmarried couples, all share a common trait of caring for their family members and all deserve dignity and protection. The Government has expanded early education programmes and adopted anti-bullying measures to protect young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

C. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

79. The Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized an expert group meeting on family policies and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held on 12 and 13 May 2016 in New York. The focus of the meeting was advancing several family policy areas relating to Sustainable Development Goals 1 to 5. The current state of family research and the role of civil society in research dissemination and advocacy for family-friendly policies and programmes were also discussed.

80. The participants concluded that more attention should be paid to creating synergies among policy, research and practice and improving the communication of research to policymakers. They also made specific recommendations for stakeholders in the areas of poverty and hunger, health and well-being, inclusive and equitable high-quality education, gender equality, family and parental support for violence prevention, support for fathers in families, research and data collection, stakeholder cooperation and the role of civil society.¹

81. In particular, the participants recommended the promotion of an integrated multigenerational approach to social protection that recognized care responsibilities throughout the life cycle. They also emphasized the importance of expanding family-friendly workplace flexibility and promoting the role of fathers throughout early parenthood. In the area of intergenerational relations, the experts recommended incorporating a family perspective into the design of policies targeted at young people in order to change harmful and risky behaviours and strengthen family relationships.¹

82. The theme of the observance of the International Day of Families in 2016 was "Families, healthy lives and sustainable future", with a focus on the role of families for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3. An international panel of experts addressed safe and supportive family environments and children's well-being, as well as work-family balance and health outcomes. They also discussed the

health and well-being of young and older persons and the intergenerational transfer of poverty. The effects of involved fatherhood on families and ways in which fathers could be supported both at the workplace and in the home were also discussed.⁵⁸

83. The Division for Social Policy and Development, in cooperation with civil society, organized a number of awareness-raising events that provided a venue for sharing good practices in family policy. Experts made recommendations on how to develop and/or improve existing family policies as tools for advancing the 2030 Agenda.

84. An international conference on the theme "Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality: the role of family policies and exchange of good practices", organized by the Confederation of Family Organizations in the European Union, in cooperation with the Division for Social Policy and Development, was held on 19 and 20 April 2016 in Amsterdam. The conference put a spotlight on family policies that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It also highlighted unpaid care, shared responsibilities within the household and the role of civil society in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.⁵⁹

85. The Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region held its fifth regional symposium on the theme "Asian families: changes and consistency" in Seoul from 3 to 5 November 2016. The symposium provided a platform for the exchange of good practices in family policy development in Asia. The Aspiration for Sustainability, Innovation and Applicability project was recognized for its outstanding initiatives that had enhanced family well-being. The Division for Social Policy and Development participated in the symposium and encouraged further sharing of good practices in the region.⁶⁰

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

86. The International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes have served as catalysts for a number of initiatives at the national and international levels, including many family-oriented policies and programmes. In particular, the framework has allowed the strengthening of family policies and the sharing of good practices in the areas of poverty eradication, work-family balance, intergenerational issues and related areas.

87. Family policies and programmes and families themselves can further contribute to the attainment of several Sustainable Development Goals and targets. In particular, family-focused initiatives to reduce poverty and hunger and promote the well-being of all at all ages can boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty.

88. There is a growing realization that universal and gender-sensitive social protection systems are key to ensuring poverty reduction. In addition, targeted cash transfers for vulnerable families, such as those headed by women, have been proved to be most effective when accompanied by other measures, such as access to basic services, high-quality education and health services.

⁵⁸ More information about the observance of the International Day of Families in 2016 is available from www.un.org/development/desa/family/international-day-of-families/2016idf.html.

⁵⁹ Materials from the conference are available from www.coface-eu.org/europe/international-conference-sustainable-development-goals-and-gender-equality/.

⁶⁰ More information about the symposium is available from www.cifa-net.org/list.aspx?urlkey=3RN8SONGmWxaCb85.

89. Many Member States have provided family allowances and broader social protection measures to assist the most vulnerable families. Such initiatives often go beyond providing benefits and include comprehensive strategies with regard to the labour market, education, health care and other social services. Many stakeholders have also recognized the importance of promoting an integrated, multigenerational approach to social protection, sensitive to care responsibilities.

90. Policies to promote work-family balance, including universal access to high-quality childcare, play a crucial role in poverty and inequality reduction and ensuring gender equality and higher female participation in the labour market. Cost-effective policy solutions to support work-family balance have been pursued by many Member States and include the provision of high-quality childcare, the expansion of family leave and paid sick days and measures to improve workplace flexibility.

91. There is growing recognition that gender inequalities at work can be reduced if actions are taken to eliminate the disadvantages faced by women on account of their reproductive functions. The promotion of the equal sharing of unpaid work at home, on the one hand, and by the family and society at large, on the other hand, is therefore key to ensuring gender equality at home and in the workplace. The ILO labour standards, including the relevant conventions and recommendations, serve as a guide for efforts at the national level in this area.

92. Member States have undertaken a number of initiatives to strengthen intergenerational relations within families, in particular the promotion of intergenerational living arrangements and proximity living for extended family members. Such initiatives tend to improve intergenerational relations and have been found to promote the autonomy of children and older persons and their sense of security. They also help to reduce the growing costs of living. Similarly, initiatives to promote involved and positive parenting and support the role of grandparents have been found to be beneficial in advancing social integration and solidarity between generations.

93. Member States are encouraged to consider the following actions as part of their efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda:

(a) Step up efforts to implement the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes, in particular in the areas of fighting poverty and hunger and ensuring the well-being of all at all ages;

(b) Promote work-family balance as conducive to the well-being of children and gender equality, through flexible working arrangements, parental leave, childcare provision and initiatives to promote the equal sharing of household responsibilities, including care work, between men and women;

(c) Invest in family policies and programmes that promote strong intergenerational interactions, such as intergenerational living arrangements and parental education, in an effort to promote inclusive urbanization and intergenerational solidarity.

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United Nations Office for Partnerships**Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (most recently, A/71/159).

The United Nations Office for Partnerships strives to serve as a gateway for public-private partnerships to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Office oversees the areas set out below.

The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. At the end of 2016, the cumulative allocations as approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects to be implemented by the United Nations system had reached approximately \$1.4 billion. Of this amount, it is estimated that \$0.45 billion (about 31 per cent) represents core funds contributed by Ted Turner and \$0.99 billion (about 69 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. The total number of United Nations projects and programmes supported up to the end of 2016 by the Foundation through UNFIP stood at 618, implemented by 48 United Nations entities in 127 countries.

The United Nations Democracy Fund was established by the Secretary-General in July 2005 to support democratization around the world. It focuses on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund, the Office has channelled some \$166 million to nearly 700 projects in more than 130 countries, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and young people to media programmes that enable civil society to project its voice.

The Office also provides partnership advisory and outreach services in response to demand from the United Nations system, Governments and non-State actors to provide advice on, guide and facilitate partnership events and initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

* A/72/150.



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I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

1. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) is a United Nations trust fund established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system in support of high-impact projects implemented throughout the world by agencies of the United Nations system. Its work is overseen by the UNFIP Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General.
2. The United Nations Foundation was founded by an entrepreneur and philanthropist, Ted Turner, as a public charity in the United States of America to channel Mr. Turner's historic \$1 billion gift to support United Nations causes and activities.
3. As at 31 December 2016, the cumulative allocations approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects had reached approximately \$1.4 billion, of which \$0.45 billion (about 31 per cent) represents core funds from Mr. Turner and \$0.96 billion (about 69 per cent) represents co-financing from other partners. Since its inception, 618 projects have been implemented or are under implementation by 48 United Nations entities in 127 countries. In 2016, the Foundation approved projects totalling \$28.5 million, the majority (\$22.8 million) focused on global health. The selection of projects and initiatives supported by the Foundation through UNFIP is highlighted herein.
4. The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, as established in 1998, has been renewed twice, first in 2007 and again in 2014, when the partnership was renewed for an additional 10-year period under a revised and restated relationship agreement, as noted previously (see A/70/202). The Joint Coordination Committee, established under the new agreement, is the principal forum to ensure strong and timely communication and coordination between the United Nations and the Foundation. The Committee normally meets twice per year, as it did in 2016.

Support for innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives

5. The Foundation works in close collaboration with the United Nations to foster innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives to advance priorities, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and acceleration of climate action. The present report is organized according to the long-standing programmatic priorities of the Foundation. In anticipation of the shift to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and with the then impending leadership transition at the United Nations, the Foundation Board of Directors approved a strategy in November 2016 focused on five overarching priorities that inform the Foundation's larger purpose: investing in United Nations leadership; accelerating action on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change; mobilizing diverse constituencies for change; deepening the support of the United Nations by the United States; and cultivating fresh thinking and ideas for United Nations support.
6. To advance these priorities, the Foundation relies on the following range of tools to support the United Nations:
 - (a) **Channelling.** The Foundation continues to work with a wide range of stakeholders to mobilize and channel financial resources to the United Nations system through UNFIP;
 - (b) **Convening.** The Foundation collaborates with various United Nations entities to bring stakeholders together and foster dialogue on a range of issues,

including, in 2016, the lead-up to important milestone events, including the World Humanitarian Summit and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(c) **Communicating.** The Foundation deploys a diverse set of communications tools to build informed public support for the United Nations and to give wider visibility to issues high on the Organization's agenda. This work is conducted in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information and other communications experts across the United Nations system;

(d) **Championing.** The Foundation champions the work of the United Nations through global and United States-based advocacy initiatives that connect citizens to the United Nations. The Foundation helps to foster a common understanding about the mission of the United Nations and also to ensure strong and sustained support by the Government of the United States for the United Nations;

(e) **Collaborating.** The Foundation has become an institutional home for a number of multi-stakeholder initiatives in support of the sustainable development priorities of the United Nations, including the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Family Planning 2020, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Data2X and the Digital Impact Alliance.

A. Global health

7. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked in close collaboration with UNFIP, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations entities to address key global health priorities, including the elimination of preventable diseases such as poliomyelitis, measles, rubella and malaria, and has engaged in advocacy regarding the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents.

Measles and rubella

8. Established in 2001, the Measles and Rubella Initiative is a global partnership committed to reducing measles deaths and limiting the number of children born with congenital rubella syndrome. It is jointly led by WHO, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations Foundation. The aim of the Initiative is to advance the Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012-2020 by helping countries to increase vaccination coverage for measles, rubella and other preventable diseases; fund, plan, implement and monitor high-quality supplementary campaigns; investigate outbreaks; and provide technical and financial support for effective disease surveillance and outbreak response.

9. In 2016, the Initiative undertook a midterm review of the Strategic Plan to help to focus its work going forward in the most strategic way. It recognized that significant progress had been made towards measles and rubella elimination since 2001, but noted that deeper progress had been affected by competing priorities and the resulting insufficient resources. It recommended stronger collaboration with the GAVI Alliance and greater focus on improving immunization systems — which might require adjusting measles and rubella elimination goals — in order to ensure that gains in measles and rubella control could be sustained.

10. The role of the Foundation in the Initiative focuses on advocacy and resource mobilization, and it also serves as a fiduciary. The Foundation's Shot@Life campaign, for example, engages with civil society, policymakers and partners to reduce vaccine-preventable childhood deaths by supporting the efforts of UNICEF and WHO in that regard. The campaign is also used to educate, connect with and empower the public in the United States to champion vaccines and their country's bilateral funding for measles and rubella initiatives. During 2016, more than \$21 million was disbursed by the Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF and WHO in support of activities of the Initiative around the world.

11. In 2016, the Foundation continued its multi-year partnership on Shot@Life with Walgreens, a leading pharmacy chain in the United States, to raise awareness and help to provide vaccines to children in developing countries through a campaign. From September 2016 to August 2017, for every vaccine administered in the United States at Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacies, an amount equivalent to the price of one vaccine is being donated to the Shot@Life campaign. With the support of Walgreens customers, the campaign has helped to provide more than 15 million polio and measles vaccines since its inception in 2012.

Poliomyelitis

12. The Foundation has been a long-standing supporter of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a public-private partnership led by five core partners: the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International, UNICEF, WHO and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Since its inception in 1988, the Initiative has immunized more than 2.5 billion children worldwide and raised over \$10 billion with the goal of creating a polio-free world. The Foundation supports the Initiative through global and United States-focused advocacy, communications and public outreach and the provision of grants to United Nations partners.

13. The work of the Foundation on polio is guided by the annual strategy and workplan of the Initiative's Polio Advocacy and Communication Team. Similarly to the Measles and Rubella Initiative, the Foundation leverages the Shot@Life campaign to educate, connect with and empower the United States public to champion vaccines and their country's bilateral funding for polio eradication initiatives.

14. During 2016, a grant of \$761,013 was disbursed by the Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF to support polio eradication initiatives in the Lake Chad region. Building on a grant provided in 2015, an additional \$203,773 was disbursed through UNFIP to UNICEF in order to purchase and distribute 4,516,148 doses of oral polio vaccine for children under 5 years of age in Afghanistan. Both of these grants were made in the wider context of the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018, with funds also raised through the Shot@Life campaign.

Malaria

15. Since 2004, the Foundation has engaged with the United Nations and other partners to facilitate bednet distribution to combat the spread of malaria. For more than a decade, the work of the Foundation on malaria has been through Nothing But Nets, a global grass-roots campaign to raise awareness and funding to combat malaria through the provision of bednets and other malaria interventions. It enables individuals to join the fight against malaria by purchasing and sending bednets to malaria-affected communities and engaging in advocacy with policymakers in relation to increased United States investment in malaria interventions.

16. Nothing But Nets works primarily with UNICEF and UNHCR to purchase insecticide-treated bednets and distribute them to affected countries in Africa.

Bednet distributions are typically part of a wider public health effort within a country coordinated by the ministry responsible for health, the United Nations and other local and international organizations.

17. In 2016, the Foundation provided grants through UNFIP to UNICEF of \$352,994 and \$230,000 to implement malaria prevention projects in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, respectively. The projects helped to support the implementation of the national malaria control programmes by ensuring the provision of 360,000 and 85,000 insecticide-treated bednets, respectively, to pregnant women and children under 5 years of age.

18. The Foundation also provided \$336,420 through UNFIP to support an emergency malaria prevention project of UNHCR targeting refugee populations in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The grant was accompanied by a parallel in-kind donation of 475,000 insecticide-treated bednets and enabled UNHCR to reach 950,000 beneficiaries while also implementing malaria prevention education and awareness-raising activities.

B. Women, girls and population

19. Throughout its existence, the Foundation has worked with United Nations partners, including UNFPA, UN-Women, UNICEF and UNHCR, to promote gender equality, improve maternal health, advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning, advocate stronger support for rights of adolescent girls and eliminate gender-based violence. All those issues are now central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Girl Up campaign

20. In September 2010, in response to calls by the United Nations and other actors for intensified efforts to address the needs and rights of adolescent girls, the Foundation launched Girl Up, an advocacy and fundraising campaign that engages with adolescent girls across the United States and around the world to improve the lives of other adolescent girls. The campaign has inspired more than 1,425 Girl Up clubs in 90 countries, in which members learn about the issues faced by adolescent girls and take action to address them.

21. In 2016, through campaign partners and fundraising efforts, the Foundation provided a grant of \$250,000 through UNFIP to continue its support for the UNFPA Action for Adolescent Girls initiative in India. This initiative seeks to protect adolescent girls' rights, in particular by delaying the age at which they marry and bear children, empowering the most marginalized girls and elevating their status in their communities. The programme uses an evidenced-based approach aimed at strengthening "protective assets" for girls (e.g., health, social and economic assets) focusing on the most marginalized populations.

22. The Foundation also provided UNFPA with a grant of \$200,000 in support of a second-chance schooling programme in Guatemala to promote the rights and leadership of indigenous adolescent girls and to assist in providing them with the skills necessary to actively participate in making decisions that affect their lives. The implementing partners for this initiative include UNFPA and the Population Council.

23. Moreover, the Girl Up campaign provided \$500,000 through UNFIP for a joint programme to accelerate efforts to advance the rights of adolescent girls in Liberia, jointly implemented by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization and UN-Women. The aim of the programme is to empower the most vulnerable and at-risk girls by equipping them with livelihood and life skills, improving their health services, reducing the prevalence of harmful traditional practices and violence against girls and ensuring adolescent-friendly and child-friendly communities.

24. Through the Girl Up campaign, the Foundation also provided UNHCR with a \$500,000 grant, through UNFIP, in support of the Educate a Child programme implemented in Ethiopia and Uganda with a focus on adolescent girls. As the global refugee protection agency, UNHCR is responsible for ensuring that refugee children have access to a good quality of education in their countries of asylum. Among other activities, the grant supported the building and equipping of additional classrooms and the recruitment and training of new teachers. Since 2012, the Educate a Child programme has enabled more than 266,000 refugee children to have access to primary schools in 12 countries through UNHCR and its partners.

25. The Girl Up campaign also facilitated an additional Foundation grant of \$100,000 to UNHCR, through UNFIP, in support of a project within its education strategy to advance the education of Somali refugee girls in the three refugee camps in Jijiga, Ethiopia. The one-year project began in November 2016 and will increase the educational performance of girls in both primary and secondary education by strengthening girls clubs — using the established girl-friendly spaces approach — and empowering girls to play a meaningful role in community leadership and management.

Family Planning 2020

26. Family Planning 2020 is a global partnership that works with Governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, the private sector and the research and development community to enable 120 million more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020. It was an outcome of the London Summit on Family Planning, in 2012, where more than 20 Governments made commitments to address the policy, financing, delivery and sociocultural barriers to women's access to contraceptive information, services and supplies. More than 90 formal commitments have been made to the partnership since its launch.

27. The core principle is that all women, no matter where they live, should have access to life-saving contraceptives. The vision is for it to serve as an inclusive and results-oriented partnership that works with a diverse group of stakeholders and experts to accelerate action and to address the most significant global and country-level barriers to progress towards the goals of the initiative. The United Nations Foundation serves as the secretariat for the partnership, which is co-chaired by UNFPA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

28. Achieving the goals of the partnership will be critical to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights by 2030, as laid out in Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5. The partnership also supports and is aligned with the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030).

29. In 2016, the Foundation provided a grant of \$200,000 through UNFIP to UNFPA to implement a project to expand the capacity of and access to high-quality family planning services and to support the provision of free male condoms in Nepal, in particular for the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities affected by the earthquake of 2015 and its aftermath. Moreover, the Foundation provided a grant of \$120,000 through UNFIP to UNFPA to support a project intended to increase access to modern contraceptives and their use by unmarried young migrant workers in industrial zones of Viet Nam.

C. Energy and climate

30. Since its inception, the United Nations Foundation has been working closely with the United Nations to help to achieve progress towards a safer, cleaner, more equitable and climate-friendly energy future. The Foundation has championed action on a range of global climate and energy issues, especially through its support for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, launched by the Secretary-General in 2011 and now an international not-for-profit organization. In 2016, the Foundation continued its support for that initiative and the energy access agenda more broadly through the following three sub-initiatives:

(a) **Energy for Women's and Children's Health.** Through this initiative, the Foundation works with the United Nations and its partners to increase access to power in health facilities in developing countries as a means of improving the availability and quality of health services, in particular for women and children. Launched in 2013 in partnership with WHO and UN-Women, the aim of the initiative is to increase awareness of the importance of electrifying health-care facilities for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen the enabling environment for health facility electrification and foster innovation in the delivery of energy solutions for health facilities. In this context, the Foundation, with funding support from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is working to deploy solar energy solutions in rural health facilities in Ghana and Uganda. As part of this project, the Foundation provided a grant of \$500,000 through UNFIP to WHO to evaluate the impact of the health facility electrification activities supported by the Foundation and to assess the impact of those interventions on health service delivery outcomes;

(b) **Energy Access Practitioner Network.** Established in 2011, the Network is a platform developed by the United Nations Foundation that supports the development of a thriving global distributed energy sector as an important contribution to the achievement of universal energy access. It provides a network for addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by the sector and serves as conduit for coordination between practitioners, the United Nations and Sustainable Energy for All. In 2016, the Network collaborated with the latter to design its fifth annual survey focused on financing flows in the sector. It also seeks to facilitate access to sustainable energy solutions in humanitarian and conflict settings, where market-driven approaches may not be appropriate, and serves on the Steering Committee of the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Humanitarian Working Group, initiated by UNHCR;

(c) **Clean Energy Mini-grids Partnership.** The Foundation helps to lead a partnership of more than 300 organizations from the United Nations (e.g., the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), the private sector, the public sector and civil society. The Partnership uses the international framework of Sustainable Energy for All to enable, enhance and promote existing and upcoming efforts in the mini-grids sector, with a view to increasing the rate of deployment and market transformation impact.

D. Advocacy, communications and other United Nations support

31. In addition to its financial support in the programmatic areas of global health, women and girls and climate and energy, the United Nations Foundation directs grants and other communications, advocacy and collaborative efforts to support the work of the United Nations. In 2016, these efforts included channelling resources to

United Nations entities through targeted fiduciaries, supporting United Nations capacity and creating and engaging in advocacy platforms and tools to support a robust global communications strategy around the 2030 Agenda and supporting key drivers of its implementation, such as data, by housing a select number of multi-stakeholder initiatives. Below is a sample of these activities, including those that resulted in funding flowing to the United Nations through UNFIP.

United Nations fiduciaries

32. Many agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations lack a functioning United States-based charitable organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, thereby making it difficult for them to compete for tax-deductible contributions from United States companies or companies with affiliates in that country, as well as from United States citizens. As a United States public charity and fiscal agent for receiving and disbursing such contributions through UNFIP, the Foundation is well suited to assist the United Nations in that regard. Over the years, a number of United Nations entities have requested the assistance of the Foundation as a fiduciary or fiscal agent to receive and disburse contributions from corporations and private individuals in support of their specific campaigns and programmes.

33. In 2016, the Foundation, through UNFIP, provided \$153,190 in funding to four United Nations entities through fiduciary channels. Specifically, \$17,199 was provided to the voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking, especially women and children, of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; \$19,632 was provided as part of mobilizing voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; \$57,859 was provided to the Global Partnership to Stop Tuberculosis managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services; and \$58,500 was provided to the Mine Action Service programme on protecting civilians against the threat of illegal weapons and explosive hazards in Kitshanga, North Kivu Province, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

United Nations capacity

Support to the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Climate Change Support Team

34. The year 2016 was critical for setting the pace of progress for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in an integrated manner. In 2016, the Foundation channelled a project grant of \$700,000, which was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through UNFIP to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to support the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The aim of the grant was to enhance the capacity of the Special Adviser and his team to engage with national Governments and conduct global outreach ensuring that information about the 2030 Agenda was widely dispersed and accessible, through the involvement of civil society, businesses, the communications sector, social media, academic institutions and international bodies.

35. An additional grant of \$93,000 funded by the Lear Family Foundation was channelled by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to support the Climate Change Support Team with regard to the early ratification and entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

Transition support

36. In 2016, the Foundation supported the transition team established by the then Secretary-General-elect to help him to prepare for the assumption of his duties on 1 January 2017.

Support for United Nations information centres

37. In 2016, the Foundation provided the Department of Public Information with a grant of \$100,000 through UNFIP to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations information centres to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. This support consisted of a workshop in New York on communicating information about the Goals, a training session in Senegal on communicating as one United Nations for French-speaking staff and targeted support for individual information centres.

SDG Philanthropy Platform

38. Launched in 2014, the SDG Philanthropy Platform is a global initiative that connects philanthropic organizations with knowledge and networks to deepen collaboration, leverage resources and maintain progress for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Platform acts as a facilitator, connecting philanthropic organizations to key stakeholders, processes and policies driving the implementation of the Goals within national development planning, and is implemented by UNDP, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and the Foundation Center.

39. The Foundation provided UNDP with a grant of \$49,680 through UNFIP to support global coordination activities for the Platform managed by UNDP, including the expansion of the Platform to five new countries (China, India and three countries in the Middle East and North Africa region) and the development of road maps to bring solutions relating to the Sustainable Development Goals to scale.

Global Pulse

40. The Secretary-General launched Global Pulse in 2009 to support the United Nations system in leveraging the power of big data and artificial intelligence to inform development and humanitarian efforts. Global Pulse is an inter-agency initiative designed to contribute to the "Delivering as one" approach to strengthen the capacity of Governments to measure development effectiveness and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Global Pulse partners with United Nations agencies, governments, academic institutions and the private sector to develop and mainstream approaches for applying real-time digital data to development and humanitarian challenges.

41. In 2016, with funding support from the Vodafone Americas Foundation, the United Nations Foundation provided a project grant of \$93,000 to Global Pulse through UNFIP to expand global awareness and understanding of the value of mobile phone data to support development and to further catalyse investment and action by the telecommunications industry. Global Pulse has been reviewing the landscape through primary and secondary research, resulting in a report, *The State of Mobile Data for Social Good*, which was published in 2017.

Instant Network Schools programme

42. The United Nations Foundation, with funding support from the Vodafone Americas Foundation, also provided UNHCR with a grant of \$606,000 through UNFIP in support of the Instant Network Schools programme, the aim of which is to deliver education programmes for children in refugee camps by facilitating access to

the Internet and technology. UNHCR estimates that only 76 per cent of displaced children are accessing primary learning and that just over one quarter are enrolled in high school, resulting in millions of pupils who have not gained the most basic literacy and numeracy skills. Providing access to technology and the Internet is crucial to enhancing education programmes in refugee camps and to achieving higher learning outcomes. Through this project, UNHCR and the Vodafone Americas Foundation worked together to establish and replicate the programme as an integral part of the UNHCR Education Strategy 2012-2016, with a goal of reaching more than 66,000 refugee children by 2018.

Communications

Seventh annual Social Good Summit

43. The Social Good Summit is a unique convening of prominent global leaders, new media and technology experts, grass-roots activists and voices from around the world to examine the impact of technology and new media on social good. With the theme "Connecting today, creating tomorrow: #2030 now", the 2016 Summit was held on 18 and 19 September and hosted in collaboration with UNDP, Mashable and 92Y. The event managed to reach, using the #2030NOW hashtag, more than 270 million people in over 80 countries.

Global Moms Challenge

44. The Global Moms Challenge is an advocacy initiative created by the Foundation in 2011 to support the health and well-being of mothers and children by connecting mothers in the United States to their peers worldwide, in support of the Every Woman, Every Child initiative. The initiative consists of the Moms + Social Good annual event and the Global Moms Relay, a digital media campaign to amplify the conversation about the challenges faced by mothers.

45. Through the 2016 edition of the Global Moms Relay, the Foundation, with funding support from Johnson & Johnson, provided UNICEF with a grant of \$100,000 through UNFIP in support of a neonatal intensive care unit for critically ill newborns at the Yekatit 12 hospital in Addis Ababa. The hospital will serve as the first standard training site for neonatal intensive care in Ethiopia.

Sixty-sixth Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference

46. In 2016, the Foundation provided the Department of Public Information with a grant of \$25,000 through UNFIP for the sixty-sixth Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, on the theme "Education for global citizenship: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals together", held from 30 May to 1 June 2016 in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea. Co-sponsored by the Executive Committee and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Conference served as an important opportunity to mobilize global civil society around the Sustainable Development Goals and was the first of its kind to be held in Asia. The Conference resulted in the adoption of the Gyeongju Action Plan.

Housing multi-stakeholder initiatives

47. The Foundation serves as an institutional home for several independent multi-stakeholder initiatives that advance United Nations goals and priorities. These include:

(a) **Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.** The Alliance is a public-private initiative hosted by the United Nations Foundation to save lives, improve

livelihoods, empower women and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance works in close partnership with WHO and UNEP, among other United Nations entities, and has a 10-year goal to foster the adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels in 100 million households by 2020. Since its launch in 2010, the Alliance and its partners have strengthened the clean cooking sector and elevated the issue, leading to the distribution of more than 53 million clean and/or efficient cookstoves and fuels. In 2016, the Alliance, with its partners, successfully advocated the inclusion of indicators on clean cooking and household air pollution to track progress towards the attainment of multiple Sustainable Development Goals. In excess of 50 countries currently include household cooking energy in their nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, which demonstrates increasing interest in clean cooking to deliver health and climate benefits;

(b) **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.** The United Nations Foundation was selected in November 2015 to serve as the institutional home for the secretariat of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, which was launched in September 2015. The Partnership is a multi-stakeholder network with more than 100 members from Governments, international organizations, companies, civil society and the statistics and data communities. The aim of the partnership is to fill critical data gaps and ensure that data are more accurate, timely, open and useable for the measurement and achievement of inclusive and sustainable development. The Partnership serves as a convener, connector and catalyst, building trust and encouraging collaboration between stakeholders across sectors towards achieving these aims;

(c) **Data2X.** Launched in July 2012, Data2X is a collaborative technical and advocacy platform that works with United Nations agencies, Governments, civil society and the private sector to close gender data gaps, promote expanded and unbiased gender data collection and use gender data to improve policies, strategies and decision-making. It is hosted by the United Nations Foundation with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Data2X is also a gender data lead for the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data;

(d) **Digital Impact Alliance.** The Alliance is a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Sweden and the United Nations Foundation, the aim of which is to bring together the public and private sectors to realize an inclusive digital society that connects everyone to life-enhancing and life-enabling technology.

II. United Nations Democracy Fund

48. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established during the 2005 World Summit as a United Nations general trust fund and launched in April 2006, with the United Nations Office for Partnerships/UNFIP providing administrative support and sharing resources. Since then, the grant-making body has become clearly defined as a fund for civil society organizations. It is the only United Nations entity that has the word “democracy” in its name, the only United Nations body with the primary purpose of supporting democracy by empowering civil society and one of the youngest entities in the United Nations system. The large majority of project funds go to local civil society organizations in countries in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. By supporting the “demand” rather than the “supply” side of democratization, the Fund plays a new, distinct and unique role in complementing and enhancing the more traditional work of the United Nations —

the work with Governments — to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

49. In the years since its creation, the Fund has experienced considerable growth in its portfolio, its donor base, its impact and its visibility. The aim of its projects is to strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. In its first 10 rounds of funding, the Fund supported almost 700 projects in more than 130 countries, with a total disbursement of some \$166 million. The projects ranged from supporting civil society efforts for accountability and transparency to building capacity for strengthening good governance and the rule of law.

A. Tenth round of funding

50. The call for project proposals for the Fund's tenth round was open from 15 November to 31 December 2015. The Fund received 2,663 project proposals from civil society, reflecting the continued high demand for support from the Fund to finance projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The proposals originated from organizations in 143 countries, the vast majority of them local non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

51. The response added to the considerable growth that the Fund has experienced since its creation in 2005, with initiatives that reflect a focus on strengthening the voice of civil society, thereby increasing concentration on the demand side of democracy, rather than on the supply side.

52. In the tenth round, 49 projects were funded at a total cost of \$10,181,000. As defined by their key activities, the projects are disaggregated as follows:

- (a) Youth engagement (35 per cent);
- (b) Rule of law and human rights (14 per cent);
- (c) Community activism (8 per cent);
- (d) Strengthening interaction with Governments (12 per cent);
- (e) Media and freedom of information (8 per cent);
- (f) Empowerment of women (21 per cent);
- (g) Tools for knowledge (2 per cent).

B. Donor base

53. The cumulative total amount of contributions received from 2005 to 2016 exceeded \$179 million.

C. Evaluation

54. The Fund's contracted firm of internationally renowned evaluators, Transtec, had completed 200 post-project evaluations by the end of 2016. The vast majority of the evaluations were positive, while also providing valuable lessons learned for the Fund's knowledge management. The Fund published all post-project evaluations on its public website, as decided by its Advisory Board. In that way, the Fund consolidated its position as one of the most transparent entities within the United

Nations system. A revised post-project evaluation strategy was approved by the Board in November 2016. The revised strategy is designed to make better use of local and regional expertise and to ensure that the lessons learned from evaluations are embedded in the Fund's own capacity.

D. Governance

55. The two governing mechanisms of the Fund, the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group, continued to play an active and guiding role during 2016. In addition to recommending funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General, the Board provided the Secretary-General with policy guidance on the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines. The Group provided input and quality control in the project selection process and the implementation phase, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN-Women. The Fund also benefits from the advice and support of the resident coordinators in the field for input into the project selection process and support with monitoring the implementation of projects.

E. Eleventh round of funding

56. The Fund launched its eleventh round of calls for project proposals in November 2016. When applications closed, on 18 December 2016, the Fund had received 3,002 proposals, the vast majority of applications from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Arab region and Eastern Europe. In accordance with the annual timetable adhered to by the Fund, the applications were assessed by March 2016 and the Advisory Board recommended a shortlist in April, after which the Fund advised the permanent missions of those Member States in which listed projects were to take place. The shortlist was then submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Short-listed applicants were to be asked to submit draft project documents by the middle of 2017 to be negotiated with the Fund. The first tranches of project funding are to be disbursed from September, once again in a timeline that compares favourably with international standards.

F. Democracy in action

57. Examples of the Fund's projects are the following:

(a) **Development pacts: an accountability tool in the hands of local communities in Kyrgyzstan.** The aim of this project was to better involve the rural population of Kyrgyzstan in the identification of local service needs by developing and using development pacts between voluntary citizen committees and local authorities. The pacts were created by the project in collaboration with local authorities, so as to ensure better participation and transparency in governance. Three years after the end of the project, pacts continue to be used in rural Kyrgyzstan, and other countries have replicated the experience of the project;

(b) **Grass-roots gender accountability in Uganda.** The project helped women district councilors to acquire skills and knowledge to promote the equality agenda with policymakers. The project's advocacy activities led to improved gender-sensitive service delivery, as the local government budgeted for enhanced services for women and girls. Two years after the end of the project, the

Government announced that gender-sensitive indicators would be used to ensure that all sectors incorporated gender equality into decision-making and service delivery in the country. An independent evaluation highlighted that in addition to having contributed to the legislative process with a detailed review of the gender-sensitivity of four draft bills, the grantee's most remarkable achievement under the activity was the newly introduced legal requirement that future drafts of the country's annual budget be certified as gender-sensitive before parliamentary approval.

(c) **Strengthening municipal capacity for access to public information in El Salvador.** The project had a strong impact on improving how local administrations could implement the enforcement of the Act on Access to Public Information. Training and advocacy raised the profile of the Act and led to it being placed high on the local political agenda. An evaluation of the project concluded that it had led to the creation of the country's first diploma on transparency, providing opportunities to train civil servants and municipal employees on the Act. That the project was financed by the United Nations helped to generate interest in the programme and to convince public institutions and other relevant actors to take part.

III. Partnership advisory and outreach services

58. Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda requires a revitalized and enhanced global partnership that brings together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizes all available resources. Building upon the success of the Millennium Development Goals, this new development agenda is the international community's primary guide for sustainable development in the years to come. Like never before, the sustainability aspects of development are considered a primary concern at the local, national, regional and international levels.

59. The 2030 Agenda includes Sustainable Development Goal 17, on revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Goal 17 calls for enhanced global partnerships for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Goals. In furtherance of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Office for Partnerships facilitates the engagement of the private sector, civil society and philanthropic leaders in the work of the United Nations system through partnership advisory services and the convening of events that promote cross-sector dialogue, outreach and the catalysing of new partnership initiatives.

60. In 2016, a wide range of companies, foundations and civil society organizations approached the United Nations Office for Partnerships to explore opportunities for engagement with the United Nations. Most enquiries were related to mapping specific paths of engagement and identifying partners within the United Nations system with which to collaborate for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to learn about partnership opportunities relating to the 2030 Agenda.

61. Selected key partnership projects and initiatives are listed below.

2016 Investor Summit on Climate Risk

62. On 27 January 2016, Ceres, the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the 2016 Investor Summit on

Climate Risk, held at Headquarters. Held every two years at the United Nations since 2003, the Summit is an important forum that enables institutional investors to discuss the implications of climate change for capital markets and their portfolios.

63. The Summit brought together investors and business leaders to discuss the far-reaching implications of the Paris Agreement. The core focus of the event was on how best to accelerate the shift to a clean energy future and to tackle the impact of climate change effectively. Summit topics included opportunities to expand clean energy investment in developed and developing countries and possible solutions to mitigate carbon asset risks.

International Women's Day Forum 2016

64. In consultation with UN-Women, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation Corporate Citizen Center jointly convened the International Women's Day Forum on the theme "The business of inclusion: global prosperity through women and girls empowerment". This annual event was held on 7 March 2016 at Headquarters, ahead of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Forum brought together more than 400 leaders from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and multilateral institutions to explore practices to empower girls and women in businesses and focused on the role of businesses in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 5, on gender equality.

ID2020 Summit 2016

65. The Summit was jointly convened on 20 May 2016 at Headquarters by the United Nations Office for Partnerships and ID2020, a non-profit, global initiative launched in response to target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals: "By 2030, provide legal identity to all, including birth registration". The main theme of the Summit was "Harnessing digital identity for the global community". In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the Summit provided a platform for a focused discussion on the need to enable people who suffer political, social and economic exclusion to obtain legal identity. It brought together leaders of and representatives from the private sector, Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, in addition to policy analysts and thought leaders, to build cross-sectoral partnerships that will help to provide vulnerable populations with legal identity by 2030.

2016 Partnership Exchange

66. On the occasion of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the first Partnership Exchange event of 2016 on 18 July at Headquarters. The three main objectives of the event were: to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, to provide a learning platform for multi-stakeholder partnership commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and to share knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the Goals. The event brought together almost 500 participants and high-level speakers and featured partnerships such as the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, the Global Initiative for Child Health and Mobility, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and the Small Island States Resilience Initiative. The participants included representatives of multi-stakeholder partnerships, Governments and the United Nations, major groups and other stakeholders.

Permanent memorial at the United Nations to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

67. The permanent memorial, *Ark of Return*, was unveiled on 25 March 2015. The memorial, located at the Visitors Plaza at Headquarters, invites people to contemplate the legacy of the slave trade and to combat racism and prejudice today. In 2016, the United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to support the permanent memorial project and administer the trust fund account. In accordance with the agreement with the Permanent Memorial Committee, the Office issued the related report of the Secretary-General (A/71/170).

IV. Conclusions

68. Mr. Turner's historic philanthropic contribution through the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has contributed significantly to an increased mobilization of resources and a growth in the number of multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the goals of the United Nations.

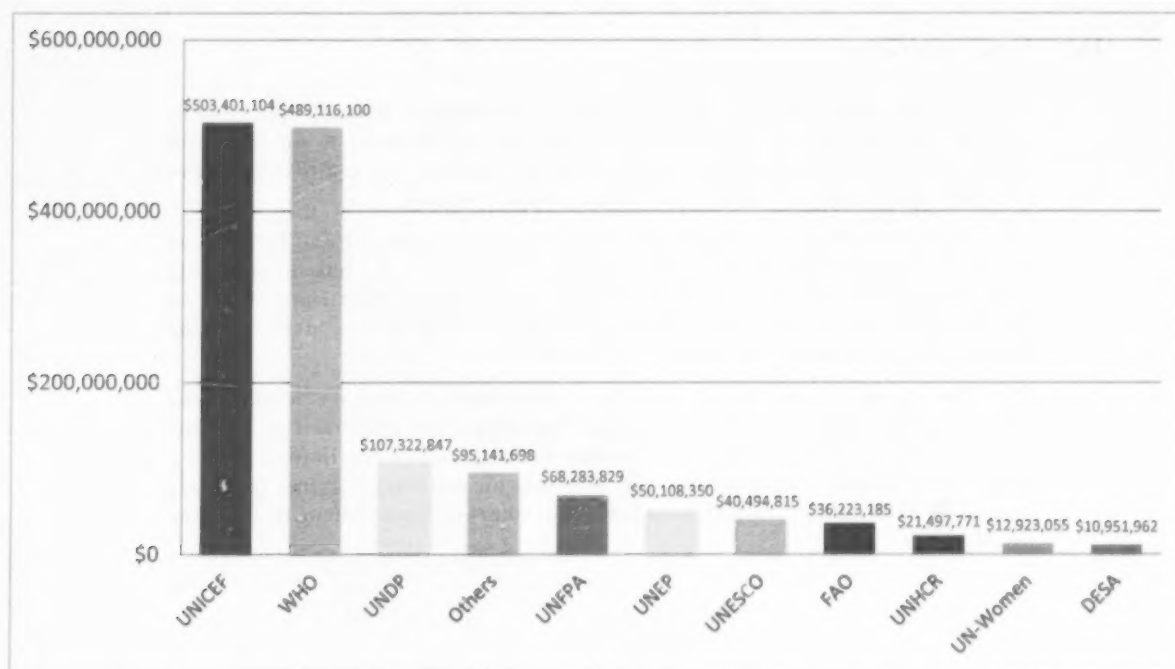
69. The United Nations Democracy Fund is now 12 years old and has proved to be a highly innovative and effective initiative. It has successfully complemented the work of many United Nations agencies that concentrate on the "supply" side of democratic institutions by focusing on the "demand" side through grants to local civil society organizations.

70. The operation of UNFIP and the Fund remains the core work of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Office has continued to convene events to increase awareness and mobilize action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and provide advisory services to a wide range of public and private stakeholders that share a commitment to realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Annex I

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects

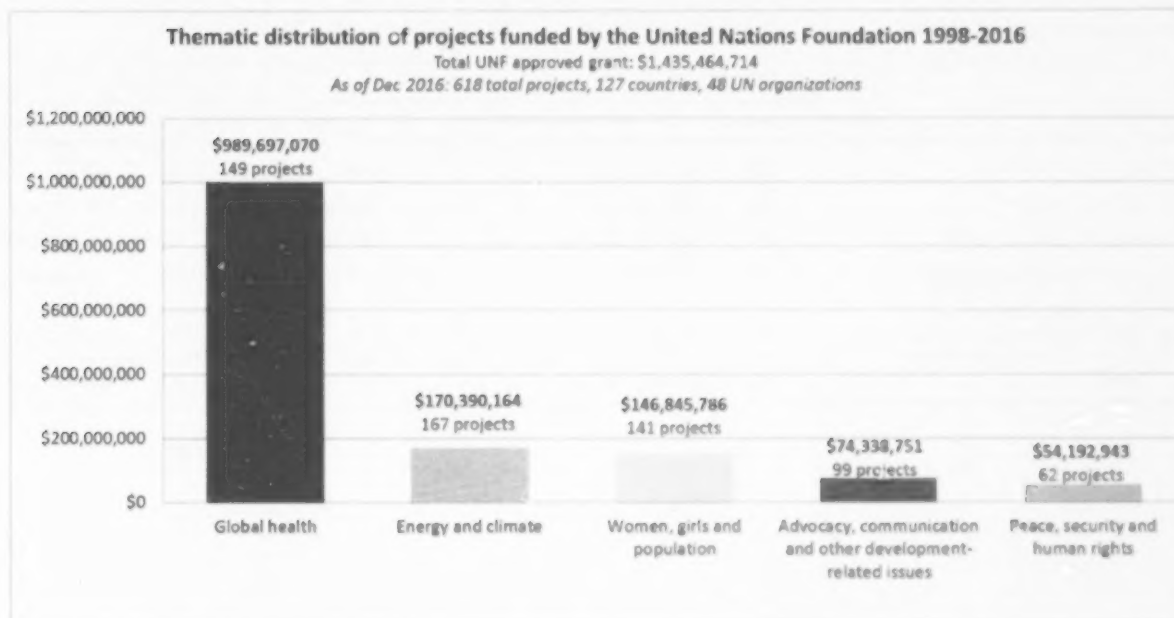
A. Cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2016, distributed by implementing partners (\$1,435,464,714)



Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.

B. Thematic distribution of projects approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2016

(\$1,435,464,714)



Annex II

Projects approved by the United Nations Foundation in 2016 and in prior years, by programme area

(United States dollars)

<i>Programme area</i>	<i>1988-2015</i>		<i>2016</i>		<i>1988-2016</i>	
	<i>Number of projects</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Number of projects</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Number of projects</i>	<i>Value</i>
Global health	143	966 833 216	6	22 863 854	149	989 697 070
Energy and climate	166	169 890 164	1	500 000	167	170 390 164
Women, girls and population	134	144 975 786	7	1 870 000	141	146 845 786
Peace, security and human rights	62	54 192 943			62	54 192 943
Advocacy, communication, and other development-related issues	87	71 073 332	12	3 265 419	99	74 338 751
Total	592	1 406 965 441	26	28 499 273	618	1 435 464 714

Annex III**Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2016**

Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General (Chair)

Oh Joon, President of the Economic and Social Council (until 27 July 2016)

Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, President of the Economic and Social Council (since 28 July 2016)

Andrej Logar, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (until 12 September 2016)

Dian Triansyah Djani, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (since 13 September 2016)

Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Susan M. Davis, former President and Chief Executive Officer, BRAC USA

Luis A. Ubiñas, President of the Board of Trustees, Pan American Development Foundation

Bruce Usher, Faculty Director, Social Enterprise Program, Columbia Business School

Ann de la Roche (member, ex-officio), Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Annex IV

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 27 March 2017

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Cumulative contribution received</i>
Algeria	100 000
Argentina	30 000
Australia	9 212 424
Bulgaria	10 000
Canada	754 935
Chile	380 000
Croatia	71 000
Cyprus	5 000
Czechia	205 602
Denmark	265 018
Ecuador	5 000
Estonia	10 395
France	4 793 716
Georgia	24 943
Germany	20 006 910
Hungary	75 000
India	31 912 543
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	658 724
Israel	57 500
Italy	2 947 800
Japan	10 180 000
Latvia	15 000
Libya	15 000
Lithuania	49 332
Madagascar	5 000
Malta	11 347
Mongolia	10 000
Morocco	5 000
Panama	34 500
Peru	90 849
Poland	710 664
Portugal	150 000
Qatar	10 000 000
Republic of Korea	1 100 000
Romania	472 860
Senegal	100 000
Slovakia	16,773

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Cumulative contribution received</i>
Slovenia	127 924
Spain	5 043 311
Sri Lanka	5 000
Sweden	20 397 686
Turkey	280 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	683 653
United States of America	60 076 000
Other	2 230
Total	181 113 639

Annex V

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2016

Member States

Algeria
Australia
Barbados
Colombia
Germany
India
Japan
Nigeria
Poland
Slovakia
Sri Lanka
Sweden
United States of America

Non-governmental organizations

International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
TECHO

Individuals

Aracelly Santana
Marjorie Tiven
Jeffrey Wright
